

**At national
confab here**

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Nazis allowed to break law

BY DAN CARPENTER

Authorities allowed members of the National Socialist White People's Party (Nazi) to violate at least three provisions of the County ordinance on park use during the Nazis' national convention here last weekend, according to a formal report by Humboldt District Park Superintendent Norbert Rader. Rader's report quotes Gil Rakowski, the district's acting superintendent for last weekend, as saying that both the City police and County sheriff's departments failed to act on requests from Rakowski and another park officer that the Nazis be ejected from Humboldt Park at 3000 S. Howell ave.

The report was sent to County Park Superintendent Alfred Koplin.

According to the report, which Rakowski confirmed in a telephone interview, the Nazis violated the law by assembling, passing out literature, and displaying flags bearing swastikas, all without first obtaining a permit from the County Park Commission. Only the American flag may be displayed in a County Park

without a permit.

About 40 persons wearing storm trooper uniforms with swastika insignia convened in the park twice Saturday, according to Rakowski. During the first visit, which occurred about 12:30 p.m., Rakowski said he showed leaders of the group a copy of the ordinance forbidding assembly, leafleting, and flag display without a permit. When the group failed to produce a permit, Rakowski said, he ordered them to leave within 10 minutes, and they did so.

But the Nazis returned at about 3:30 p.m., Rakowski said, again without a permit and again committing the three violations he had cited.

Rakowski said he then called the police to ask that officers be sent to oust the Nazis. No police officers had arrived by the time he left the park when his shift ended at 4 p.m., Rakowski said. Later, said Rakowski, Henry James, the night patrolman at the park who replaced him at 4, asked police officers who were at the scene, and the sheriff's department by telephone, to eject the Nazis. The authorities refused, said Rakowski, and the Nazis finally

left at about 5 p.m.

"The sheriff and the police said they (the Nazis) weren't doing anything wrong," said Rakowski. "If they're violating the rules, they're doing something wrong, unless there's something wrong with my book."

Rakowski added: "What's the sense of going and sticking your neck out, if you're not going to get the backing?"

Spokesmen for the police and
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Inaction of authorities angers park officer

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sheriff's departments shed little light on the incident. A man who said he was the officer in charge of the Second District station for the police department, but would not identify himself, told a reporter there were "no reports of any trouble" at the park on Saturday. Humboldt Park is in the Second District.

Capt. William Klamm of the sheriff's department said police told his department Saturday at 4:15 p.m. that the Nazis were in the park and that police had the white supremacist group under surveillance.

Since the sheriff's department is charged with policing County parks, Klamm said, police normally would have summoned sheriff's officers in case

of trouble. But there were no further calls listed in sheriff's department records, Klamm said.

The Park Commission will not take action on Rader's report because the incident of last Saturday is "water over the dam," said Robert Mikula, General Manager for the Commission. Lacking enforcement powers of its own, Mikula said, the Commission and its officers can only call the police and sheriff's department in cases of violations.

Nor can the Commission deny permit for park use because of an applicant's political beliefs, he said. Legally, he pointed out, the Nazis could have assembled, leafleted, and displayed their flags in the

park, had they duly sought a permit.

Mikula added, though, that use of the parks for political purposes has been a serious concern of the Commission. Constitutional guarantees of free assembly and free speech must be extended to all, Mikula said, even though "explosive" situations are possible when gatherings involve groups such as the Nazis, which preach hatred of other groups.

The Park Commission is awaiting a legal opinion from the State Attorney General's office as to whether it can prohibit political gatherings in County park buildings, Mikula added. The opinion was sought after the Washington Park Senior Center was used by Mayor Maier for a meeting of his Citizens Crusade early this year.

If the opinion goes against the Commission, Mikula said, "we can foresee where we might have to make our buildings available to the Nazis." This would eliminate problems the Nazis have had in acquiring halls.

"This is not going to be the end," Mikula said of the Nazis. "It's growing all the time."