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MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 37, Folder 5, Ku Klux Klan, 1980.

TO: RABBI MARC TANENBAUM



Klansman Seth Kliphoff, left, and Nazi William Russell wait to speak on behalf of their request for a parade permit. Hecklers and scuffling disrupted the hearing in the City-County Building Auditorium, however, and they never got a chance to speak.

DETROIT FREE PRESS 6/27/80

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Angry words were exchanged by protesters and councilmen . . .



. . . some protesters were ushered out of the auditorium . . .

Few niceties were exchanged Thursday as groups opposed to the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party made their feelings known at a hearing in the City-County Building.

Two representatives of the Klan and the Nazi Party came to plead their case for a parade permit, but they never got as far as the microphone. During the five-hour hearing, police arrested 11 demonstrators on charges of disorderly conduct.

"You try to speak your mind and they drag you off," said a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party.

The Detroit City Council has yet to set a date to take a vote on the parade permit request.

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... and escorted down the hall to a police detention room.



NEWS PHOTO / WILLIAM T. ANDERSON

Police remove a demonstrator from Detroit Council chambers. More photos on 8G.

Violence mars hearing on Klan-Nazi parade

By NOLAN FINLEY
and W. BOHY
These Staff Writers

The Detroit City Council said it intended only to measure community opinion when it called a public hearing on whether it should issue permits for a Ku Klux Klan-Nazi march later this summer.

But the hearing yesterday turned into a marathon shouting session, marked by violence and confusion.

prove the Klan-Nazi parade, then organize a counterturnout to "kick their asses."

Violence broke out even before the hearing began.

Klipthoth, who had been talking with Russell in the lobby of the City-County Building about 9:30 a.m., stepped outside "to buy a paper" from the protesters.

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He was immediately surrounded by about six anti-parade protesters, who knocked him to the ground and kicked him in the head. Blood spattered Klipthoth's black leather jacket and white cotton gloves as he struggled back inside to rejoin Russell.

● Seth Klipthoth, the Klan man at the hearing, was knocked to the ground and kicked outside the City-County Building by picketing Communist revolutionaries.

● Bill Russell, head of the local Nazi group, had to be escorted out of the chambers by a group of police officers after the crowd swarmed around him when he took the microphone to address the Council. Russell had spoken only four words when he and Klipthoth were shoved out a back door and into a freight elevator by police.

● Ten people were arrested — six men and four women — for trying to attack Klipthoth and Russell as they entered the chambers or for interrupting the meeting later.

● A number of spectators who said they were Communist revolutionaries interrupted speakers during the hearing to shout at Council members, calling them "capitalist dogs."

The hearing lasted more than five hours.

WHEN SPEAKERS could be heard, the moderates among them pleaded with the Council to deny the parade permits, while the more radical speakers took up Councilman Kenneth Cockrel's recent appeal to ap-

Violence mars hearing on Klan-Nazi parade

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As they entered the upstairs auditorium, jammed with about 600 people nearly unanimous in opposition to the march, Kliphoth and Russell were greeted with chants of "Death to the Nazis" and "Death to the Klan." A few of the protesters charged the pair and had to be carried away by police.

RUSSELL WAS the first to take the speaker's stand, but spoke only four words when the chants resumed and several members of the audience began to rush forward. Several of the 30 police officers on hand quickly surrounded Russell and Kliphoth and rushed them to safety.

"I spent 15 minutes cleaning blood off me so I could come in here to express my views," Kliphoth said later. "I hold Ken Cockrel directly responsible for the assault against me. He's the one who told people to organize against us and 'kick our asses.'"

Russell, when asked why more Nazis and Klansmen didn't accompany them, said: "Two is all we need."

After Russell and Kliphoth were escorted out, order was restored and the meeting continued without outbursts — for a while.

But when Councilman Jack Kelley reminded the audience that the Council had earlier granted a permit for a May Day march by the Revolutionary Communist Party "who sprayed red paint all over every-

thing," the RCP members in the audience came to their feet.

"Shut up, you dog!" one member yelled.

THEN KELLEY, an immense man who is sometimes serene and sometimes explosive, leaped to his feet and roared, "Come on down here and I'll kick your asses!"

The rest of the revolutionaries jumped up and police hauled several out of the meeting by their necks and hair.

The 10 people charged with disorderly conduct were taken to the Police Headquarters lockup pending arraignment in Traffic Court this morning.

About 80 speakers came to the podium to air their views. They took two basic tacks: that the Klan and Nazis, no matter how repugnant, have a constitutional right to march and be heard; or that the two groups should not be recognized by the Council with a parade permit.

One of the most eloquent speakers was Steve Handschu, a blind Detroit sculptor. Speaking to the constitutional issue of freedom of speech and assembly, Handschu quoted the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.:

"Dr. King said, 'Everything that Hitler did was legal, and we must not forget it at our peril.'"

"**I DON'T HAVE** to tell you that once you grant them a permit, you guarantee them the protection of the Detroit Police Department. And once that mandate is given, just whose heads do you think are going to get beaten?"

Taking a similar position was Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig, director of Shaarit Haplaytah, a congregation of survivors of the Holocaust. The 57-year-old rabbi was interned by the Nazis in the Polish ghetto of Austria, lost nearly all of his family and

Yugoslav army gets women

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — (AP) — The Yugoslav parliament approved legislation yesterday allowing women to volunteer for up to six months' service in the armed forces. The Yugoslav draft still applies only to men, however.

Military officials said they were studying the best ways of integrating women into the armed services.



NEWS PHOTO · WILLIAM T. ANDERSON

Klansman Seth Kliphoth (left) and Nazi Party's Bill Russell at Detroit Council hearing on their request for a parade permit.

escaped death by hiding until the end of the war.

"In the Nuremberg Trials, the argument of the defendants was that they followed orders and followed the law," he said pleadingly. "On what basis, then, were they judged guilty?"

"There comes a time when the law cannot be used as an excuse for murder, as an excuse for genocide, as an excuse for mass annihilation of people. These organizations which advocate, directly when they can, the murders of blacks and Jews and other minorities, they are on a different level."

DOROTHY SPIDELL, an east side activist, argued that the parade should go on, but the route should not be around the City-County Building as has been requested.

"Let them march down Mack Avenue on the lower east side," she said. "It will save you a costly court battle. I say let them march and the black people in this town and other people will slaughter them!"

George Crockett, Detroit corporation counsel, told the Council it has no legal options but to grant the permits.

"Our streets and parks traditional-

ly have been a forum for the expression of ideas, whether we like them or not. If the Constitution is to have meaning, we, who are elected officials, have a responsibility to give it that meaning."

The city's Recreation, Transportation and Police departments all recommended that the permits be denied, primarily for safety and logistical reasons.

A POLICE spokesman said five other events have been scheduled for the day of the planned Nazi-Klan march, Aug. 23, and police manpower will be spread too thin to adequately protect the marchers.

The Detroit Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan and the Wolverine Bar Association all have submitted letters to the Council reluctantly backing the rights of the Nazis and Klansmen to march.

The American Civil Liberties Union repeated yesterday its intention to back the marchers in court if necessary.

Council President Erma Henderson said she did not know when the Council will vote on the matter, since neither Russell nor Kliphoth were heard yesterday.



AP Photo by JOHN C. HILLERY

An unidentified man throws a kick at William Russell, spokesman for the American Nazi Party in Michigan, before the City Council meeting.

By LUTHER JACKSON
Free Press Staff Writer

Eleven demonstrators against the Ku Klux Klan and American Nazi Party were arrested Thursday during a Detroit City Council hearing on the two groups' application for a parade permit to march and rally in downtown Detroit.

Police said the seven men and four women were charged with disorderly conduct; police would not release their names.

The arrests and a number of scuffles occurred as the council met for five hours to get public opinion on whether the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and members of the American Nazi Party should be permitted to march Aug. 23 and then rally in Kennedy Square.

The council has not decided when it will vote on the request.

SHOUTING "death to the Klan," demonstrators from a number of left-wing organizations packed the 500-seat City County Building Auditorium as the council struggled to keep some order.

Three persons were arrested as they tried to rush past police and attack the Klan's Seth Kliphoth and Nazi Party's William Russell shortly after the two came into the auditorium. Others were arrested after later disruptions of the hearing.

Kliphoth and Russell were scheduled to speak first. But after the crowd's chanting became too loud, Councilman Clyde Cleveland ordered the hearing canceled. Kliphoth and Russell were hustled away down a back elevator by a squad of police officers.

Council members appealed to Cleveland to let

11 protesters arrested at Klan-Nazi hearing

MARCH, from Page 3A

everyone be heard and the meeting continued. Kliphoth and Russell did not return.

RUSSELL LATER SAID the two groups would march even if the council does not approve the parade permit.

Kliphoth blamed City Councilman Kenneth Cockrel for the violence, citing Cockrel's public request earlier this month for the council to organize a counter-demonstration and "kick the Klan's ass."

Cockrel, who argued that the council must grant the permit, later said he made the statement in the same light as President Carter had when he said he would "whip Ted Kennedy's ass" in the 1980 Democratic primaries.

"I wouldn't want to speculate on who was responsible," Cockrel said of Thursday's outbreak. "It's important to remember that the majority were not violent. We passed a test today. I think we didn't do too badly, all things considered."

SEVERAL OTHER demonstrators were taken from the auditorium by police after engaging in shouting matches with council members. Some were detained and apparently released later.

One demonstrator, screaming "So this is a democracy?" was forcefully taken to the City-County Building police detail. He had engaged in a discussion with Councilman Jack Kelley in which Kelley stood up and shouted to a group of demonstrators waving a red flag in the top tier of the auditorium.

"You try to speak your mind and they drag you off," said a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party.

All of some 80 speakers at the hearing expressed horror and disgust at the Klan and Nazis, but opinions were divided on whether the council should allow them to march.

MANY LEGAL organizations and Detroit's chief attorney, George Crockett Jr., argued that despite the group's views, the council had to approve a parade permit or deprive them of their constitutional rights to freedom of speech and assembly.

"What the Law Department advises is not the most popular opinion," Crockett said, "but it is in keeping with the Constitution."

Asked about the march at an impromptu press conference, Mayor Young said, "I don't think we need that type of confrontation in our city."

"Hell, yeah. I think violence could break out," he said.

OTHER SPEAKERS said that, given the Klan's violent history, the council should deny a parade permit.

"It is nothing short of a tragedy for Judge Crockett to give such an opinion," Steve Handschu said. "We are not talking about free speech. We are talking about genocide."

More than 10 groups and coalitions circulated flyers at the meeting. A member of the Revolutionary Socialist League said at least one of their group had been arrested. One source said three of those arrested were members of the Revolutionary Communist Party.

THE DISTURBANCE began more than an hour before the hearing started, when members of four groups picketing in front of the City-County Building encountered Kliphoth and reportedly kicked him on the ground.

"Five or six of them jumped me as I left the building," Kliphoth said. "I couldn't see too much, I was too busy being clobbered. It took me 10 or 15 minutes to clean all of the blood off of me."

Kliphoth, clad in a black leather jacket and white gloves, said he would press charges against the demonstrators.

Despite the presence of more than 30 police officers from three units, the uproar continued when the demonstrators left the picket lines and came into the auditorium.

COUNCILMAN CLEVELAND blamed the anti-Klan demonstrators for the violence.

"I think that was their whole thing," Cleveland said. "It's ironic. The (Klan and Nazis) were not even allowed to speak because of the catcalls. It's a case of the Constitution versus emotion."

Councilmen David Eberhard and Kelley said they would oppose the parade permit because of the potential for violent confrontation.

The council has received reports from the Police and Transportation departments recommending that the march and rally be denied. A Recreation Department report said Kennedy Square would be available for a rally if the parade permit were granted.

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Holocaust victims on Nazis' march: Law is no excuse

By KEN FIREMAN
City-County Bureau Chief

Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig has seen it happen before. The 57-year-old survivor of the Nazi Holocaust sat in the City Council auditorium Thursday. He listened to the acrimonious debate over whether to grant the Nazis and Ku Klux Klan a parade permit, and talked about his boyhood in wartime Poland.

"How can I explain?" he said. "How can any survivor of the Holocaust explain what this means to us? Those who advocate the murder of blacks, of Jews and other minorities are on a different level."

RABBI ROSENZWEIG was waiting to speak, waiting to urge the council to deny the permit. He was not totally comfortable with that position, but Rosenzweig felt he had no choice.



"I always say to myself, how would I explain it to my parents and my brother who were murdered that these people somehow come under the umbrella of the First Amendment?" he said.

After a long wait, Rosenzweig finally got his chance. The audience had been noisy and disorderly throughout much of the hearing, but as he stepped to the podium, everyone — council members, demonstrators, spectators — quieted

Rabbi Rosenzweig down.

"There comes a time when the law cannot be used as an excuse for murder and genocide," he told the council. "You have a historic opportunity to deny the Nazis and Ku Klux Klan the opportunity to march in the heart of the city of Detroit.

"I do not advocate their destruction. I merely ask that you eliminate their right to publicize their hatred."

THE AUDIENCE responded with prolonged applause. Rabbi Rosenzweig was speaking with a special kind of eloquence — the kind born of personal experience.

When World War II broke out, he was a 16-year-old boy living in Ostrowiec, a city of 40,000 in northern Poland. Over the next six years virtually his entire family was killed in Nazi concentration camps. Only Rabbi Rosenzweig, his sister and a few cousins survived.

"On my mother's side, her entire family was wiped out," he said. "On my father's side, there were three or four who survived. Out of 16,000 Jews in my town, less than 120 survived."

RABBI ROSENZWEIG says he was separated from his family and sent to a forced-labor camp, but managed to escape before he was shipped off to a death camp.

"I was fortunate enough to hide through the war with a sympathetic non-Jew," he said. "But that was a rarity."

He came to the United States in 1947, studied at Yeshiva University in New York, was ordained a rabbi and moved to Detroit in 1951. He now heads Shaarit Haplaytah, a congregation of 200, all Holocaust survivors, based in Southfield.

Most of Rabbi Rosenzweig's memories from the war are unpleasant and best forgotten. But he says one that never fades is of his next-door neighbor in Ostrowiec, who grabbed up his young son and jumped to their deaths down a well shaft rather than surrender the boy to the Nazis.

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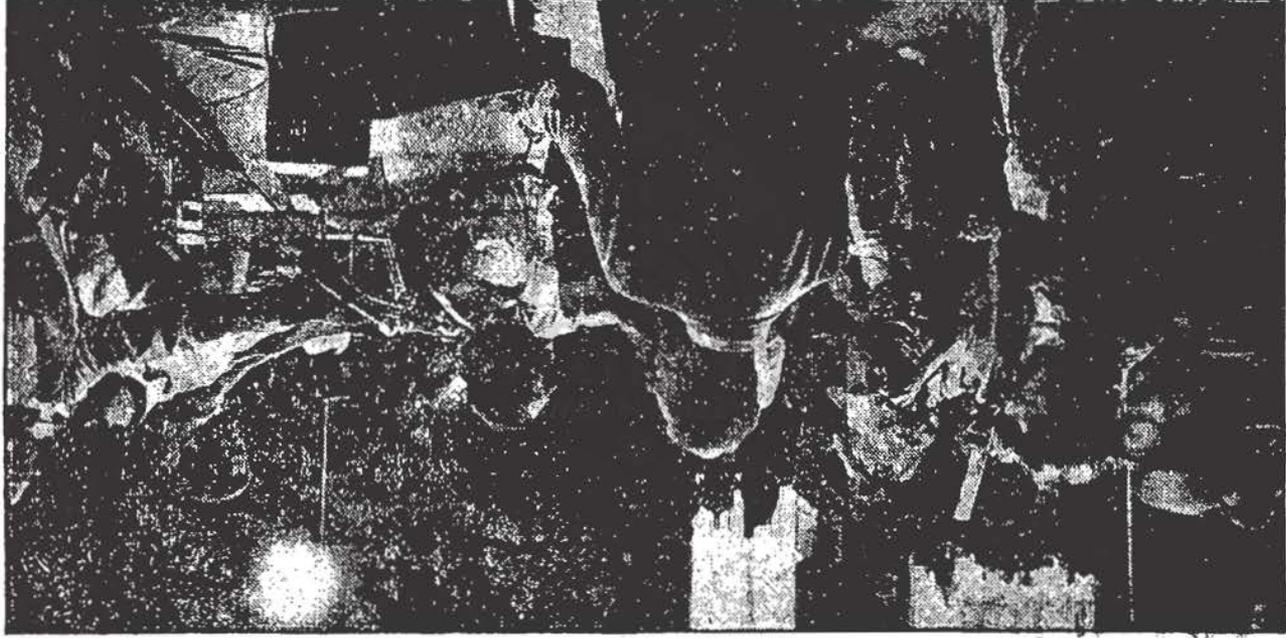


Demonstrator was among those led from chambers as police struggled to restore order.

DETROIT NEWS
JUNE 27, 1980

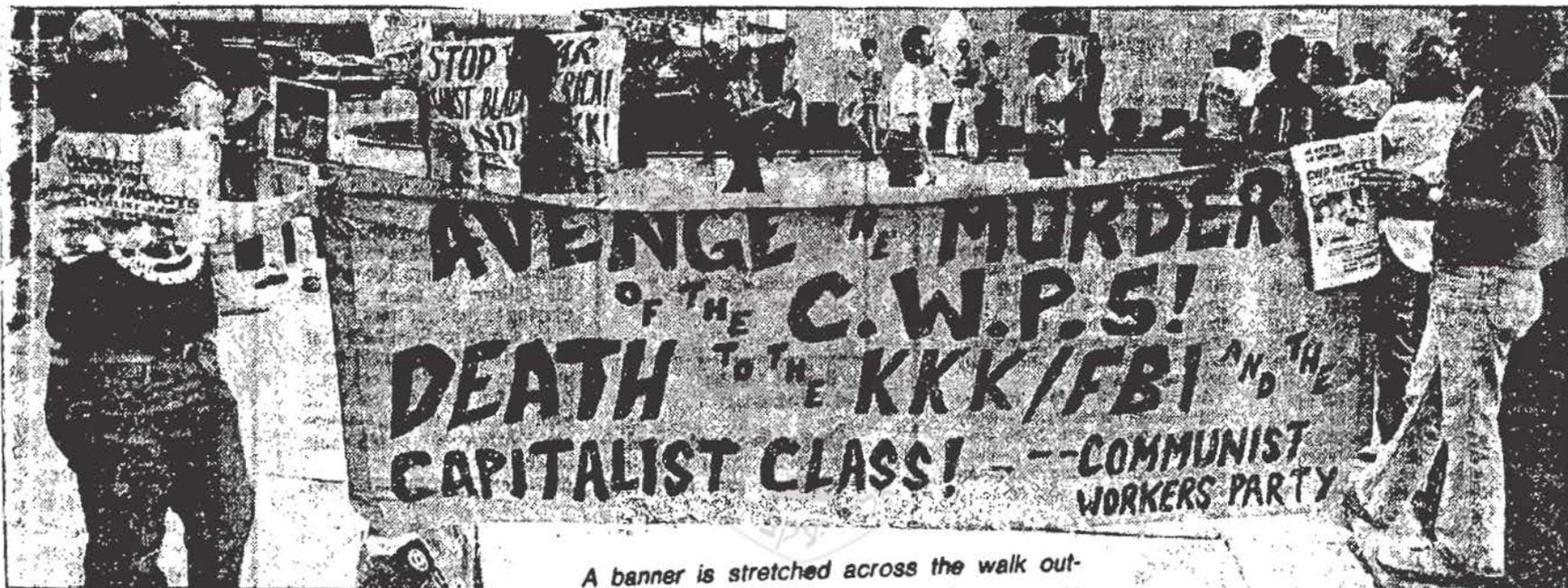
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Protester has the floor and the photographers' attention for the moment.





Revolutionary Communist Party members wave banners to back their shouts from the spectators' section in the council hearing room.



A banner is stretched across the walk outside City-County Building where more Communists were protesting against parade approval. The Council was not expected to act on permit until next week.



Protester has the floor and the photographers' attention for the moment.



Revolutionary Party member points finger while shouting something toward the Council table.

'JUST FED UP,' BACKERS SAY

Klansman Victory Reflects Voter Anger

By **NANCY SKELTON**
Times Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO—You can travel a thousand miles through the posh beach suburbs and dusty hill towns and boiling desert flats of the sprawling 43rd Congressional District and not see a "Tom Metzger" billboard or lawn sign, not a bumper sticker.

You will not hear mention of him in the backroad beer joints where men come in pickup trucks to tap their boots to the music of Willie Nelson and talk crops.

But they know who he is. He is "that klansman" who won the Democratic nomination to Congress.

In November, Metzger is expected to lose to veteran Rep. Clair W. Burgener, a moderate Republican who always has run well in the district, which is considered safe for the GOP because it holds a slight voter registration advantage over Democrats.

Nevertheless, Metzger's primary election win, by a minuscule margin of 318 votes, has been an embarrassment to Democratic officials, who now tend to dismiss it as some bizarre political fluke.

But travel through the 43rd district; stop at the farms and the trailer parks and the small family restaurants and you will learn that many people knew what they were doing when they marked their ballots for Metzger, and you will learn their reasons why.

You will not hear praise for the Ku Klux Klan on the ocean at Encinitas, or along the wooden sidewalks in Temecula, where the Butterfield Stage ran.

Unless you ask. Metzger, they say, strikes a chord, "tells it like it is."

"It's about time someone's talking

for the white, which is the American race and the one getting the bag end of the stick now," said Encinitas nurseryman Chuck Johnson, 34, who added that Metzger might be the only Democrat he ever votes for. "If it takes someone radical like Metzger to change things, I think people are ready for it."

"He's refreshing," said Bob Britton, who deals in land development in Temecula. Britton leans on his truck near where stagecoaches once rumbled and Indians were massacred and boasts he became "a racist" after working 17 years as a fire captain in Watts.

It is not that Temecula has racial strife now—"just Indians who come down here and raise hell and get treated with kid gloves." Klansman Metzger's appeal, said Britton, is that "he's not a hypocrite."

"Hell, a guy could get up these days and say he's got syphilis and people would vote for him because at least he's telling the truth and not just what you want to hear," Britton said.

To be sure, the reason the grand Please Turn to Page 28, Col. 1

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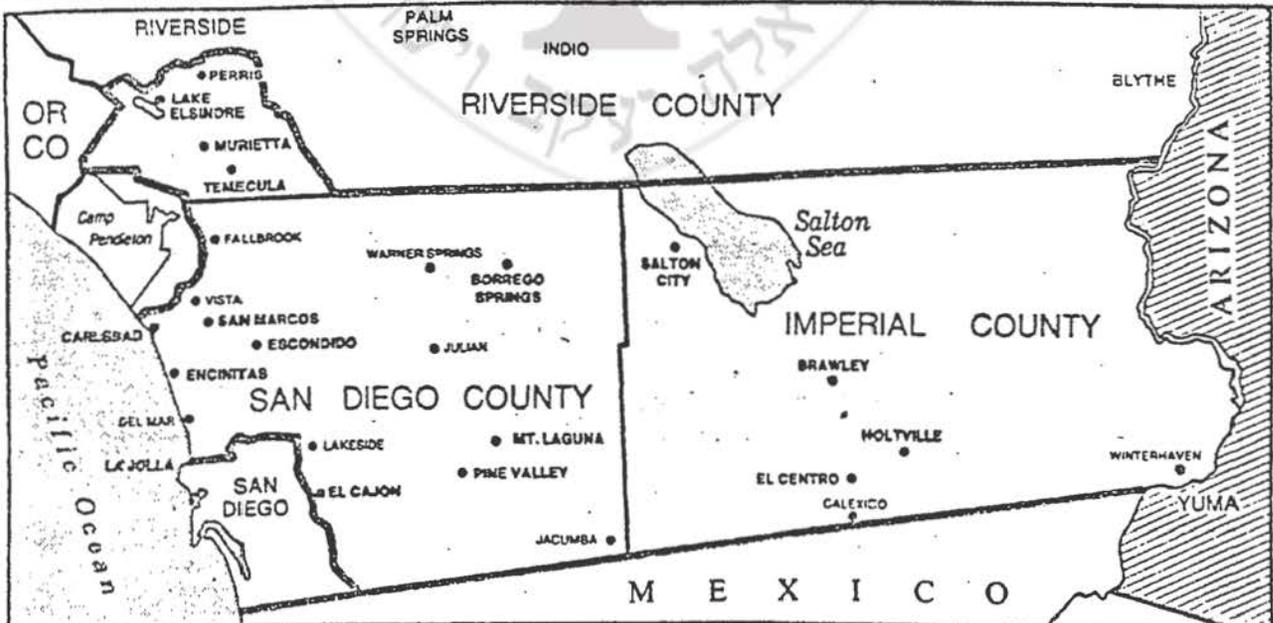
THE WEATHER

National Weather Service forecast: Fair today and Monday with highs for both days in the low to mid 80s. High Saturday, 79; low 60. High June 14 last year, 86; low, 65. Record high June 14, 100 in 1919; record low, 49 in 1894.

Complete weather information and smog forecast in Part II, Page 4.

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Los Angeles Times *



Heavy lines mark borders of the 43rd Congressional District, where Tom Metzger won nomination.

Times map

KLANSMAN'S VICTORY AT POLLS

Continued from First Page

dragon of the California KKK won was not because every one of his 32,344, predominantly white voters believes, as he does, that blacks and browns are "subhuman" and that Jews, among others, "pollute" the white race.

Mostly, people who voted for Metzger say they are just fed up.

They do not like equal opportunity employment and bilingual education and their taxes going for welfare and Cubans and Filipinos and boat people "coming in here and costing us jobs," and some do not like the way American Indians "get anything they want," likewise Iranians. And there are people like Jake Turnipseed who voted for Metzger because "I hate niggers, too."

Democratic officials, reeling from Metzger's victory, say there are mitigating circumstances.

They say Metzger's name (through rotation) topped the ballot in all of Imperial County (where he won 53% of the vote), most of rural San Diego County (he ran strong there, too) and parts of Riverside County, where he won with 52%.

But that is only a partial explanation. Metzger won solidly in areas where his name was last on the ballot and

Many voters homed in on the 'small businessman' ballot designation.

even where it was in the middle between his two opponents, a dreaded spot that political scientists say can knock several percentage points off a candidate's total vote.

Chagrined Democrats, like San Diego County chairman Ed Skagen and Imperial County chairman Fernando Sanga, say many voters simply homed in on the ballot designation, "small businessman," which the Fallbrook television repairman used.

"They never put nothing in the paper so I say, 'give the little businessman a chance,'" said George Del Castillo, a retired construction worker from Lake Elsinore, partially bearing out the party leaders' theory.

Certainly, many 43rd district voters did go to the polls uninformed, as witnessed the 26% who voted for Hubert Higgins, who had withdrawn from the race several days before June 3.

A man in La Jolla who would not give his name because "I don't want people to know how stupid I am," said he picked the klansman because he thought he was San Francisco Giants shortstop Roger Metzger.

The baseball enthusiast, incidentally, lives on a quiet street in southwestern La Jolla where residents keep their expensive homes neatly manicured and some rent them out to students at UC San Diego.

The Democrats in this precinct went for Metzger by one

of the largest margins in the city of San Diego—and Beverly Brooks, for one, does not think everyone mistook the grand dragon for a major league shortstop.

"It's a little pocket of bigotry," said Brooks, a black whose grandfather first owned land in this part of La Jolla in 1928. She manages a low-income housing unit in the area now—one that some allege was deliberately "sabotaged" during construction—and says Metzger's showing "doesn't surprise me one bit. As long as the Mexicans and the blacks stayed up the street, it was okay. They're coming down now (closer to the ocean) and all hell breaks loose."

Indeed, to try to explain away Metzger's victory as a giveaway or some freak mindlessness of the voter is to ignore what they are saying in the urban areas and the isolated byways of the 43rd district—to ignore Wildomar and Perris and Salton City and Holtville; to overlook the delicatessen clerk in the Laguna Mountains community of Manzanita—"Metzger makes sense—we're all sick and tired of busing 'em in and teaching how to speak English."

Or Rolfe Ackison, a Brawley policeman for 10 years, whose 18-year-old son, Rollie Jr., cannot get a job: "He had one all lined up at Firestone but they had to hire a minority . . . then they bring in the Cubans to burn down Camp Chaffee and they won't send the bastards home."

And to call Metzger's victory a political accident that will be easily rectified in November is to forget about Larry Atkerson and "Whitey" McColely of Winchester, who frequent the Winchester Inn, where two rifles are crossed above the door and the Imperial County sheriff is no stranger when the fights start on Saturday night.

"I like what George Wallace said—I read it in the paper—he said if he seen a colored in front of his car, he wouldn't drive around him."

That was Atkerson talking. He said he has an idea why Metzger won: "Maybe it's because he's a redneck like the rest of us."

While The Country Five were thumping away on "Johnny Be Good" in the Winchester Inn, Atkerson's sidekick, McColely, said that "the country went to hell since they didn't elect George Wallace and Goldwater, so maybe Metzger'll do something different for a change."

"George Wallace had the Klan behind him," McColely said, nudging Atkerson, with a grin.

"That's right," Atkerson said.

An elderly lady named Zona May Steinke, who resides with an aging black poodle on the shores of Lake Elsinore, was wary of talking to a stranger about her vote.

"I voted for him," she said, after a long pause. "I don't like the foreigners coming in, put it that way."

Zona May Steinke does not like "foreigners"; Steve Milas, in an oceanfront home in Encinitas, is more specific.

"When I read about Tom Metzger going over to the border and trying to help keep the Mexicans out, I figured he can't be so bad," said Milas, who was born in Czechoslova-

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kia. "and, believe me, I had to work hard for what I've got."

"I'm not talking about your Spanish. Our kids played with Spanish. I'm talking about this Mexican element, the Chicanos—the crude, loud ones, whose kids tear up toys in the stores. Go down to the medical center and it's full of them. One guy stopped his car right out there and urinated in the street," Milas said.

Edward McCullough of Mira Mesa—an ex-military man who said he will vote for Metzger in November because he does not like "the boat people coming in here and getting on welfare"—was amused when asked about the violence of the Klan.

"The more scare stories they tell about Metzger, the more it may help him. Remember when they said the whole state would go down the tubes if Proposition 13 won? Well, look what happened," he said.

Perris, in Riverside County, has a large black community and, as in areas with high Mexican-American populations, Metzger's vote dropped there to below 50% (although he still won a plurality, as he did in every minority neighborhood in Riverside and Imperial counties).

"It tells you something about right now," said Bell Rogers, whose Frontier Liquors is one of the few successful black-owned businesses in Perris.

"Always when the economy goes bad, they start looking around for someone to get down on. Look at the klan in the '30s. And look who's moving out here—whites, many who aren't making it. The time is ripe for the klan—the scary thing is that this could be in the embryonic stages," he said.

Rogers said there have been crosses burned in the last year or so in nearby Sunnymead, which like Perris is a few miles from March Air Force Base.

"I've never seen it to fail," Rogers said. "When the klan gets active, there's always a military base around." (High Metzger votes did appear on the fringes of two other major military installations—Miramar Naval Air Station and El Centro Naval Air Facility).

Metzger attempted one major public speech in early April but was drowned out by 1,200 jeering students at a San Diego State University candidates' forum.

But his other campaign—the more silent one—was directed right into the heart of the three-county hill and farm country.

"I had a lot of friends up in Riverside County and other places doing a lot of word-of-mouth work," Metzger said. And in Brawley, "I went and had a beer in the bar with a few of the boys."

It was not lost on Metzger, he said, that Riverside County was the scene of one of the klan's first important events in California.

In July, 1924, several thousand Riverside citizens applauded a public KKK initiation ceremony, where a 40-foot cross was burned and a plane flew over with its underbelly emblazoned with another klan symbol.

"The klan can be a power for good in the country," a Riverside newspaper editorialized after the event, and soon klansmen were frightening blacks by storming through their churches.

Bill Mauldin manages the bar at the Desert House Motel in Salton City, and if you ask him if he voted for Metzger, he winks: "Was there somebody else on the ballot?"

Mauldin said he recruited voters for Metzger in the economically faltering Salton Sea area, where KKK literature turned up in parked cars.

Metzger's "word-of-mouth work" stretched to Holtville, the "Carrot Capital of the World," 45 miles from the Arizona border, where there is a large Swiss colony and still some surviving pioneers from the days when Imperial County was chartered in 1907.

Down at the J and M Truck Stop the other day, when the temperature was 110 degrees and it was tall iced teas all around in one corner booth, a man answering to the name of "Jeff," with a visor cap pulled low on his head, said he voted for Metzger because "I heard about him from different people."

Jeff said, "If he's gonna do what he claims he's gonna do—take people off welfare who don't need it—well, he might do some good."

Some of Jeff's friends started ribbing him for talking to a reporter about Metzger.

"Yeah, well, I'm a 'Johnny Reb,' and I'm gonna say it," he said.

Party leaders, most of whom took a Metzger loss for granted until June 4, lamented that there was not more media coverage. It is true that where press concentration is heaviest in the 43rd district, in San Diego County, Metzger lost by 4,786 votes. But in Imperial County, the two major newspapers also ran prominent articles about the klansman and his beliefs in the closing days of the race and Metzger had precinct victories of 65%, 70%, even 75%.

And party chairman Skagen, who was Metzger's closest rival on the ballot, said he doubts, in hindsight, whether any amount of campaigning would have helped.

"We saturated the San Marcos area (of San Diego County)," he said. "Every single Democrat got a letter or a phone call telling them about Metzger and the klan, and 25% voted for him anyway."

Skagen is even more disillusioned by his 103 neighbors in the mountain hamlet of Julian who supported Metzger.

By contrast, in the San Diego County town which presumably knows Metzger best—his home community of Fallbrook—the KKK dragon lost every precinct.

But Metzger won every precinct in Imperial County and all but four in the section of Riverside County that the 43rd district cuts into.

Metzger Country:
Winchester, Riverside County—173 out of 287 voters chose Metzger, 60%.
Wildomar-Grand-Secco area, Riverside County—803 out of 1,218, 66%.

La Jolla, San Diego County, one neighborhood near a conclave of black families—22 out of 43 votes, 51%.

Holtville, Imperial County, one rural precinct near where the United Farm Workers struck last year—57 out of 76 votes, 75%.

In the Plaster City-Dixieland area of Imperial County—22 votes out of 29, 75.8%. Neighbors say that down the road in Seeley "damn near everyone's on welfare."

He missed winning by a few votes in a couple of pre-

incts in the retirement community of Sun City, but in Murrieta Hot Springs, his defeat was staggering.

The klansman who polled 52.1% of the vote countywide took only 15.5% in the springs area.

Beatrice Levy tells why. "Try 90% Jewish," she said. "A man like that shouldn't be running to represent human beings."

And there is Paul Dawn, an ex-Los Angeles policeman who does not mind telling you he voted for George Wallace and Barry Goldwater, that he is angry over welfare and illegal aliens and Jane Fonda's "foul mouth." But vote for a klansman? "Never."

There was a brilliant orange sunset behind the Santa

Rosa Mountains and a cool breeze finally came up over the baking desert when Dawn fell silent for a moment. Then he said, "You know, I love my country. I had my friends die next to me fighting for it. I lived through Hitler and Hirohito. We don't need another annihilation—and that's what the KKK stands for, annihilation of a race."

"If all of us don't have freedom," Dawn said, "none of us has anything."

Next: The statewide political implications of Metzger's victory.

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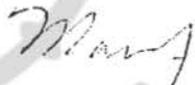
June 24, 1980

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Interreligious Affairs
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed articles from
The Los Angeles Times on the Klan victory in the Democratic primary
near San Diego.

As ever,


Seymour Martin Lipset
Professor of Political Science
and Sociology

Enclosures

SML:bwm

Metzger Says KKK Seeks to Fill Vacuum

Klansman Predicts More Election Drives; Experts Differ on Impact of His Victory

By AL MARTINEZ
Times Staff Writer

The primary election victory of Ku Klux Klansman Tom Metzger in Southern California's 43rd Congressional District was a fluke that could never happen again.

Or it was a message of ominous portent from the extremist fringe at a time of growing social unrest.

Or it was a declaration of political "guerrilla warfare" by the klan in a state ripe for racial exploitation.

Or it was none of the above. Like sleepers awakening from one bad dream, political experts throughout the state are groggily trying to measure the substance of just what happened June 3 in San Diego, Imperial and Riverside counties.

Only one truth has emerged: It wasn't a dream.

Metzger, a 42-year-old television repairman and self-appointed grand dragon of the California Ku Klux Klan, won the Democratic Party nomination by the narrow margin of 318 votes.

Running openly as a klansman, he gathered 32,344 votes and beat two other Democrats for the nomination. One of them, Edward Skagen, is chairman of San Diego County's Democratic Central Committee.

Metzger will face Republican incumbent Clair Burgener in November and is expected to lose.

But the primary election victory by the outspoken advocate of racial separation has sent shock waves rippling through the Golden State and has crowded the political stage with embarrassed Democrats vowing to support a Republican opponent rather than a racist in their own party.

Metzger, with restrained jubilation, sees his victory as the beginning of a giant effort by the century-old klan to elect KKK members and sympathizers to every office on every level—state, federal and local—in California.

Metzger's detractors—and they are many—admit that even if his warning is overblown, he has at least chosen the proper way to conduct guerrilla politics: Running in a district where the incumbent is so safe that no "opponent of stature" will waste his time campaigning.

That, Metzger said, is the klan strategy: To move its members and sympathizers into political vacuums and, though losing, win the kind of respectability the one-time night riders are seeking in their so-called "third revival."

"No matter what happens in the November election," Metzger said, "I've already won . . . and this is just the beginning."

From now on, he promised, his "people" will run for public office as both Democrats and Republicans in every area of the state that will afford them notice, if not victory. Some will run openly as klansmen; some will not.

Metzger attributes his own victory to national unrest caused by the massive influx of Cuban refugees. He says that in Miami and current refugee resettlement.

coming here to flee Communist oppression but to get what they can in a land of milk and honey."

He scoffs at the coalition of blacks and Jews who are vowing to stop him from winning a congressional seat in November, a possibility that even Metzger acknowledges is pretty remote.

"The Jews are making a fortune hiring illegal aliens to work in their garment factories, putting thousands of blacks out of work," he said. "So why should the blacks join with the Jews? That's a strange coalition."

"He speaks," a San Diego klan-watcher has said, "the language of

Second of two articles.

fear—and someone, obviously, is listening."

The political pros don't disagree with that.

"Let's face it," said San Francisco political consultant Sanford Weiner, "Metzger found a market. There's a growing racist attitude out there spurred by job competition. People tend to blame each other in an economic war."

"The voters are in a strange frame of mind . . ."

Weiner described Metzger's nomination as a fluke that should be taken seriously. It would be a mistake, he said, to do otherwise.

Few believe there is a chance of Metzger winning a seat in Congress.

Democrats were faulted for not working to block the nomination.

But the danger, as they see it, is that a klansman won anything at all.

"The fact remains, Harvey Englander of Irvine said, "that he was nominated, and the Democrats didn't do a damned thing to prevent it."

Englander works for Butcher-Forde, an Irvine-based political consulting firm.

"They could have gone down there and given some help to Ed Skagen, but they didn't. They sat back and let it happen," he said.

"And now for the Democrats to endorse a Republican is hypocrisy. Their failure allowed a klansman to win, and it could happen again."

Englander pointed out that both parties unofficially pour hundreds of thousands of dollars into primary election races.

"They do it all the time," he said, "but this time they didn't. And now they're paying for it."

Former California Democratic Party Chairman Bert Coffey of Richmond dismissed as nonsense the notion that Metzger's victory represents any kind of significant political triumph for the klan.

"When you've got three candidates and none is too well known, people will vote for the one who gets the most publicity. Coffey, an Irvine-



non Gonzales Coro Maternity Hospital in Havana.



Cuban country hospital, this one in San Blas.

Times photos by Jose Galvez

GAINS IN HEALTH CARE FOR ITS PEOPLE

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is generally poor and there is little at-
tention paid to prevention.

Furthermore, the medical delivery
system, which is generally private, is
usually separate from the public
health and sanitation system and
from whatever government-provided
care that may be offered.

But in Cuba the goal has been to
develop a single, integrated preven-
tive and curative system whose ser-
vices are free to everybody.

An urban dweller who becomes ill
in Cuba goes first to an outpatient
clinic—called a polyclinic—that is
staffed primarily with specialists in
internal medicine, obstetrics and pe-
diatrics. Polyclinics handle about 70%
of all medical needs. They are open
about 12 hours a day—from 8 a.m. till
8 p.m.—and are each designed to care
for about 3,000 people, although some
serve more people.

LOS ANGELES TIMES 6-16-80 p.3

KLANSMAN'S ELECTION VICTORY

Continued from Third Page

To the discredit of his own party, the former chairman said, there were no "signals" from the 43rd District that Skagen needed help.

"We gave him no help on that basis," he added. "But had we known . . ."

Coffey wants the state Legislature to re-examine laws that restrict official party participation in primary elections, but he also said that to offer that as a reason for a klansman's nomination is "only a great excuse."

"What it all boils down to," Coffey said, "is that we were simply asleep at the switch. There just isn't enough interest in primaries, unless they happen to be in your own district."

"Skagen didn't get enough money to buy stamps, and we're all guilty."

"I can't get my bowels in an uproar over Tom Metzger," said Los Angeles-based political consultant Joe Cerrell. "He's not going anywhere. Sure it's an embarrassment to the party, but God knows we've had those before—right up to presidential candidacies."

Cerrell agrees that Metzger won because he got the most publicity.

"People tend to remember names and not the negative aspects attached to them," he said. "Shaving cream is sold on the same basis."

Tom Quinn, once Gov. Jerry Brown's presidential campaign manager and top adviser, said both Brown and U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) could have channeled support to Skagen "had anyone known what was happening."

But they didn't, and the end result was despicable," he said.

The fact that Metzger's victory will allow him to name

three delegates to the Democratic State Central Committee doesn't bother him too much, Quinn said, because the committee's power is minimal.

"But it sure bothers me to see a racist nominated, though I'm not certain what one does about it now. Perhaps it will teach us all a lesson and awaken everyone to the importance of even obscure primaries," he said.

Republican state Sen. H. L. Richardson of Arcadia, not adverse to enjoying the embarrassment Metzger's nomination has caused the Democrats, said he does not see the klan as California's wave of the future.

"It was a protest vote and nothing more," said the conservative lawmaker. "We're not nuts running around in sheets. I like watching the Democrats squirm, but they're generally pretty decent people, and Tom Metzger isn't one of them."

At a time of economic anxiety, he said, "the Democrats played the old rejected crap that no one was buying."

"Metzger played 'America for Americans and let's crack down' and (he) got attention," Richardson said. "People are afraid, and in the middle of an ocean if a cork comes by, you grab for it."

Party loyalties don't count as much as they once did, Richardson suggested. "An individual can attract voters if they have no other options, and this is a time of diminishing options."

Former Gov. Edmund G. (Pat) Brown called anyone who would vote for a klansman "politically illiterate" but added, "I'm scared for the first time in my life . . . and I go back a long way."

Brown doesn't think either Metzger or the klan "have the chance of a snowball in hell" of expanding Metzger's nomination into a state platform of racist strength.

"But what it does," he said, "is tell us a lot about hate in California, and we ought to start examining our own souls."

The same message comes through to a committee that, for three years, has been examining hate groups in California for Gov. Jerry Brown.

Heading the investigation is Alice Lytle, secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency, who is uneasy about klan recruitment in the past two years.

"They were once just blue-collar gorillas," she said, "but now, in their bid for respectability, they're recruiting at high schools to a tremendous degree."

"It isn't just the blacks who are their enemies now, but the Jews and the Mexicans too."

"Metzger won in a small corner of the state. His nomination is a cause for alarm and not terror. But we all have to

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Detroit Free Press

Section A, Page 3

SECOND FRONT PAGE

Thursday, June 5, 1980

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES
MICHIGAN AREA OFFICE
163 MADISON
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

KENNEDY SQUARE RALLY

Klan, Nazis plan march here

RALLY, from Page 3A

Lincoln Rockwell," the late founder of the American Nazi Party.

Throughout its century-long history, the Klan has been involved in violent incidents, most recently a shoot-out in Greensboro, N.C., last November in which five anti-Klan demonstrators were killed.

Russell's group also provoked controversy and occasional violence during three unsuccessful attempts to open bookstores on Detroit's west side in 1977 and 1978.

BUT THE LEADER of the Michigan Klan, Seth Klipthoth, said the march in August would be peaceful.

"If there's any trouble, it won't come from us," Klipthoth said. "If groups like the RCP (Revolutionary Communist Party) can come out and vandalize the city, why can't we march?"

(The RCP staged a march on May 1 that resulted in the arrest of several members on various charges.)

Klipthoth, who identified himself as grand drag-

on of the Michigan Klan, said his group had 154 members in the Detroit area and 300 statewide. Russell gave no estimate of his group's size.

The application estimated the expected turnout at the march at "200 to 2,000."

ACCORDING TO city law, demonstrators do not need city approval to march if they stay on the sidewalk, keep moving and obey traffic lights. But the groups' request to rally in Kennedy Square must be approved by the City Council, which act after receiving recommendations from the Police and Recreation departments.

Russell and Klipthoth said they would sue if denied use of the square, but would abide by an unfavorable court decision.

One council member, Clyde Cleveland, Wednesday he would probably support the groups' request. "The Constitution guarantees them their 1st Amendment rights whether you agree with them or not," he said.

But another councilman, Jack Kelley, disagreed. "I would be afraid that some of the Ku Klux Klan members could get killed..." he said. "There's any way we can deny them, I would be in favor of it."

Klan and Nazis want to rally in downtown Detroit Aug. 23

By KEN FHEMAN and LUTHER JACKSON
Free Press Staff Writers

Local Ku Klux Klan and Nazi leaders jointly applied for a permit Wednesday to hold a march and rally in downtown Detroit Saturday, Aug. 23.

But Deputy Police Chief James Bannon said he would recommend denial of the permit on the grounds that the march could provoke violence.

The application, filed by the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Michigan and the National Socialist Movement of Michigan, asks the City Council for permission to march down Woodward

Avenue from Kennedy Square to the City-County Building and back again.

The permit also asks for permission to hold an hour-long rally at Kennedy Square after the march.

"We're trying to demonstrate as white people in support of the white race," said Nazi leader Bill Russell.

IN THEIR application, the two groups said the purpose of the march is to "commemorate George

See RALLY, Page 19A



Leader Bill Russell

[end]

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