DECEMBER 15, 2000

STATEMENT OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JAN SCHAKOWSKY ON THE KKK RALLY IN SKOKIE

CHICAGO, IL - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) issued the following statement on the Ku Klux Klan rally scheduled for Saturday, December 16 on the steps of the Cook County Courthouse in Skokie. At 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 17, Schakowsky will address the "Peace and Harmony" rally at Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton Street, to celebrate the diversity of the 9th Congressional District.

"One thing is for certain, our community is stronger than ever. The people of the 9th Congressional District are proud of our diversity. It is the source of our strength. Hate groups target us because of what we represent. We represent the past, present, and future of this great nation. We are a community of all colors, a community of immigrants who are proud of our heritage and who are proud of our America.

"This is who we are: Holocaust survivors enjoying a block party with their Asian neighbors, who shop on Devon Avenue in Indian, Pakistani, and Russian American shops not far from the Martin Luther King Elementary School and Mt. Zion Church. You don't need to leave our community to find the church, synagogue, mosque or temple in which you and your family can worship or to find the food you like to eat. We have it all.

"This is a concept that small minded hate mongers dread and fear -- an America that embraces all its people and that is united. So I say to them, Skokie is your worst nightmare. In your brief stay, our community will demonstrate to you what it's like to be proud, diverse, and successful."