ians move out of town

Glendale 'not a fertile place' for white supremacists' ideas

By Walter Hamilton 4-12-89 GNP

Two city councilmen said Tuesday they were anything but sorry to learn that a Glendale-based white supremacist group was trying to move out of the city.

The group, the League of Pace Amendment Advocates, is trying to relocate to Casper, Wyo., but residents there are opposing the move.

"Maybe they realized that their group is not what we want in Glendale," City Councilman Larry Zarian said. "Their philosophy is not in sync with the people of Glendale."

City Councilman Carl Raggio said he had not known the group was leaving. "But we certainly won't try to keep them," he said. "This was not a fertile place for them to spread their message."

Meanwhile, Casper officials, concerned about the prospect of a white supremacist group settling in their city, are planning to take an official stand blocking the league's move.

Wyoming state Sen. Tom Stroock, R-Casper, has urged the Casper City Council to take a stand against the group's move from Glendale to Casper.

"My one fear is that we do nothing," the senator told council members. "The last thing you need" is the notoriety Casper would receive as "the headquarters of that group

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that wants to ship people out of the country.

The league was organized by Daniel Johnson, who moved to Casper from Glendale in March and 10 days later qualified as an independent candidate for the state's vacant U.S. House seat. A special election for the seat will be held April 26.

Johnson founded the group on the basis of the so-called Pace amendment, written by James O. Pace, that calls for all non-whites to be deported from the United

States.

Johnson has said that the league has plans to relocate to Casper because it has more supporters in Wyoming than in California.

A spokesman for the league's Glendale office at 1222 S. Glendale Ave. refused to comment.

Stroock told the council that Johnson and his supporters realize he has very little chance of winning the special election. However, the senator said, "This group believes they can . . . peddle their hate pills across the U.S. from here.

"People are looking to you as city fathers to take some form of action .. without descending to their level and trampling on their rights," Stroock said. While the City Council was ready

Monday to approve a resolution to send Johnson a letter telling him of its disapproval, the body decided to wait until Tuesday so the resolution could be signed by the entire

The league last year proposed relocating to Helena, Mont., but local opposition scuttled that idea.

Helena's city manager, W.J. Verwolf, wrote the league last August to tell the group the city did not want it to settle in Helena.

The league opened an office in Helena following Verwolf's letter. according to Casper City Manager Tom Forslund, but eventually left

The group moved to Glendale from Sunland in January 1987. In June 1987, the group sought to hold a forum before the private Glendale Human Relations Council. The meeting was canceled after demonstrators sparked a brawl the night of the forum.

The fight erupted between members of the International Committee Against Racism and members of the American Nazi party.

Raggio and Zarian said they knew of no organized city effort to force the group from Glendale during its time here. But they added that the league is not welcome in the city.

Last February, the group announced it would sponsor Nazi skinhead music concerts to recruit young members. But the group never sponsored a concert in Glendale.

And just last March, then-Mayor Ginger Bremberg kept Johnson off of her 12-member task force against racism.

The task force was formed after a disciple of self-avowed racist J.B. Stoner spray-painted anti-Semitic graffiti on Glendale's Temple Sinai in December 1987.

This story contains reports from News Press wire services.