

# Man Attacks Maikovskis in Court

By James Bernstein

New York—As he prepared to testify for the first time in his five-year-old deportation proceeding, accused Nazi collaborator Boleslavs Maikovskis was knocked out of his chair yesterday by a man who later identified himself as a Jewish Defense League member.

The man screamed at Maikovskis and pushed him out of the chair but did not injure the 77-year-old retired carpenter from Mineola. In the testimony which followed, he denied that he played any part in the deaths of 20,000 Latvian Jews during World War II.

It was the first time since the U.S. Justice Department began the deportation proceedings in 1976 that Maikovskis testified publicly about his role as a police official in German-occupied Latvia during the war. Government attorneys had to obtain a court order in July to force Maikovskis to take the stand.

As the hearing was about to get under way in a small, packed and stuffy U.S. Immigration hearing room on the 13th floor of a federal building in lower Manhattan, a young man wearing a red beret and a T-shirt inscribed with the letters "JDL," jumped up from his front-row seat, screamed "You Nazi bastard," and charged at Maikovskis. The man pushed over Maikovskis' chair, and the balding, bespectacled man fell to the floor, momentarily stunned. He was unhurt.

About six U.S. Immigration agents jumped on the young man.



Maikovskis



A demonstrator pickets outside the deportation hearing for Maikovskis

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man, who was later identified as Mark Levy, 22, of Philadelphia. Levy was charged with disorderly conduct and was released for a hearing later. Immigration officials said he told them he is a member of the militant Jewish Defense League. Immigration agents, who had searched all those entering the courtroom, were unable to shield Maikovskis before Levy lunged at him.

It was the second incident directed against Maikovskis in two days. At 2 AM Monday, molotov cocktails were tossed at the Maikovskis home at 232 Grant Ave. Maikovskis, his wife and three guests fled into the street, but were unhurt. Shortly after, a man who identified himself as a Jewish Defense League member called Newsday to claim responsibility for the incident. Federal officials said they do not know if the two incidents are related.

At the outset of yesterday's hearing, Maikovskis' attorney, Ivars Berzins, said that "a large part of the responsibility" for Monday's incident "lies with the U.S. government." Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Sullivan of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, who is prosecuting the case, said the government deplored the incident.

Maikovskis' testimony mirrored much of what he has privately told immigration officials for years—that while he was police chief of the Second police precinct in the Latvian village of Audrini during the war, German officers were in control. He said that he was singing in a church choir when 30 Latvian villagers were publicly executed.

"The Germans do it. Not me," Maikovskis said in broken English. Maikovskis said that he wore a uniform of the Aizsargi, a Latvian police organization formed to keep order, but he said he wore a German uniform, too. Maikovskis said that he was not sure whether 1,000 Jews were killed near his village because "it was not my duty" to know. Maikovskis also said that, when he entered this country, he told immigration officials he was a bookkeeper in Latvia during the war. But he admitted under questioning that he was a full-time police chief during that time. "I was never asked," he said, when Sullivan asked him why he did not tell immigration officers about his police post.

Three women who said they knew Maikovskis in Latvia appeared as character witnesses for him in the afternoon session.

Court proceedings aimed at deporting Maikovskis initially began in 1976, but became bogged down in legal technicalities and were halted until late July. The government is attempting to prove that he lied on his immigration papers. The hearing was adjourned until Sept. 22.