

May 25, 1995: Approved by Task Force on Anti-Semitism and
Constitutional Law

June 7, 1995: Approved by Executive Committee

June 21, 1995: Approved by the Board of Directors

POSITION ON STATE BAN ON PRIVATE MILITIAS

Anti-Semitism and Constitutional Law Task Force Chair Robert Gordon summarized the recommendation from KlanWatch of the Southern Poverty Law Center that in wake of the Oklahoma City bombing all states adopt laws to prohibit the existence of private militia. The Task Force and the Executive Committee recommended:

"The Council supports introduction and passage by the Wisconsin State Legislature of a bill banning private militia unless authorized by the state."

Motion made and seconded to approve the recommendation.

Gordon told Board members that in reaction to the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City the Council should promote any legislation to deal with private militias, above and beyond the legislation it had already endorsed regarding criminalizing para-military training. Wisconsin is one of the states that does not have a law prohibiting private armies. Section 29 of Article IV of the Wisconsin Constitution gives the legislature the authority to enact laws to "determine what persons shall constitute the militia of the state."

Vote on motion. Motion adopted by unanimous consent.
Tom Schneider and Karine Moreno Taxman abstained.