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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, As recently as 2017, James William Kilgore has been an adjunct member of the instructional staff of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC); and

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, James Kilgore was a member of a California-based terrorist group that called itself the "Symbionese Liberation Army" (SLA); and

WHEREAS, The SLA is best known for kidnapping heiress Patty Hearst in February 1974, sparking a criminal manhunt that spread outward from the San Francisco Bay area throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, As part of their criminal activity, SLA members robbed a bank in Carmichael, California on April 21, 1975; during the bank robbery, an innocent customer, Myrna Lee Opsahl, the 42-year-old mother of four children, was brutally murdered; and

WHEREAS, Following this criminal activity, James Kilgore remained a fugitive for more than 27 years until his arrest in November of 2002 in South Africa; he was found guilty of federal explosives and passport fraud charges and was sentenced in April of 2004; and

1           WHEREAS, In a six-part documentary series, "The Radical  
2 Story of Patty Hearst", presented by CNN in February of 2018, a  
3 team led by investigative reporter Jeffrey Toobin showed  
4 evidence that James Kilgore played a key role in the Carmichael  
5 bank raid and the Opsahl murder; and

6           WHEREAS, Although James Kilgore's friends say he is a good  
7 teacher, he is not known to have ever taught anyone about the  
8 murder of Myrna Lee Opsahl, her hopes and dreams, or the hopes  
9 and dreams of her motherless children; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
12 declare our dismay that James William Kilgore has recently been  
13 a paid employee of the University of Illinois at  
14 Urbana-Champaign and may, at some point, re-sign contractual  
15 relations with the University; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That we call upon the University of Illinois at  
17 Urbana-Champaign to take immediate steps to instruct its  
18 personnel that in the future James Kilgore shall not be  
19 considered to be a person that should have any ties with the  
20 University; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 delivered to Robert J. Jones, Chancellor of the University of  
2 Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.