Joint memorial Resolution for
Professor Kirk R. Petshak (1913-1973)

Kirk R. Petshak, Professor of Urban Affairs and Business Administration, was born November 23, 1913, in Austria and died May 12, 1973 at his home in Milwaukee. On the academic side, he received the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Vienna majoring in law and political science; a Master of Arts in Economics and a Ph. D. in Economics were conferred by Harvard University. Prior to joining the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee faculty in 1962, Kirk held a teaching post at Colgate University and visiting appointments at Minnesota and Michigan State. His main interests were in urban renewal, municipal finance, and manpower problems. His numerous journal articles include contributions to the leading journals in these areas. A book on urban policy making in Philadelphia will be published this Fall.

Kirk was also keenly interested in the world of practical affairs. Nothing reflected this commitment more than his six years as Urban Development and Economic Coordinator in the Mayor's office of the city of Philadelphia. In addition, he worked as a branch chief for the United States Department of Labor and Senior Desk Officer in the Agency for International Development. During World War II he participated in the United States Strategic Bombing Survey.

Kirk's distinguished record of public service activities reflected a willingness to share his expertise plus a profound concern for his fellow human beings far beyond the call of duty. In Milwaukee he served on advisory committees to various governmental agencies such as the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the Common Council, and the City Development Department. He was a frequent participant in conferences, institutes and lectures for civic, religious, and public officials, as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Opportunities Industrialization Center. In Philadelphia he served as Chairman, Mayor's Economic Advisory Committee, and on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Bank's Economic Research Council.

Kirk will not only be remembered for his professional contributions, but for his personal qualities as well. For a number of years he suffered from a debilitating disease with no known cause or cure. Eventually, the mere act of walking was an incessant struggle. In spite of this he never solicited sympathy - never referred to his affliction, nor did he ever express anxiety over his condition. Most of all, Kirk will be remembered for his determination to lead a productive life in the face of adversity. In his final year he taught, finished his book, worked on a research project in municipal capital budgeting, consulted, and served on time consuming university committees, among other activities. Kirk's very humane qualities were best exemplified in his interest and concern for his fellow human beings - this concern was evident in his relations with students as with faculty. His warmth and cordiality were outstanding in every encounter - and despite his great involvement with university and community affairs, he was never too busy to help when called upon. His friendliness, his brightness, and his rare sense of humor were unique. His will set an example for his colleagues that will be difficult to emulate.

School of Business Administration
Clara Crook
Donald Gerwin
Chadwick Haberstroh
Paul Nystrom

Department of Urban Affairs
Milton Huber
Harold Rose
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