

Kinsey sex studies draw scrutiny

Congress urged to check whether children were abused

By Joyce Price
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Rep. Stovv Stockman, Texas Republican, has introduced a bill that calls for a congressional investigation to determine if there was "systematic sexual abuse of children" in sex research conducted by the late Alfred Kinsey.

If it were determined that Kinsey research involved criminal wrongdoing or scientific fraud, the bill would cut off federal funds to any schools, agencies or groups using Kinsey studies as the basis for sex education programs without indicating [the studies'] unethical and tainted nature.

There have been accusations of crimes against children in a study funded by the U.S. government, Mr. Stockman said at a news conference yesterday.

I want to find out if the government was involved in manipulating poor young children for the benefit of pseudoscience, he said. We're just asking to look at whether any criminal wrongdoing has taken place.

Dr. John H.J. Bancroft, director of the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University, denied that federal dollars supported any research Mr.

Kinsey conducted in his lifetime. But Dr. Bancroft said the institute has received federal funding for some projects since his death.

Indiana University officials said Mr. Stockman's office was explicitly informed that federal money was not provided for the sex survey conducted by Mr. Kinsey.

I have no concern about the allegations since I'm absolutely confident there is no basis for them, Dr. Bancroft said in a telephone interview yesterday.

The Stockman bill, the Child Protection and Ethics in Education Act of 1995, has 41 co-sponsors. It calls for the General Accounting Office to submit a report to Congress by May 1.

The bill says "Table 34" in Mr. Kinsey's 1948 report "Sexuality in the Human Male" provides "significant reason for the Congress to require an in-depth study" of the methods Kinsey researchers used to arrive at their findings on sexual issues.

Table 34, distributed at the news conference, examines what Mr. Kinsey called "pre-adolescent experience in orgasm." The results were based on observations of 317 boys, 2 months to 14 years old, who engaged in masturbation or were

masturbated by others. According to the Kinsey report, about a third of boys up to age 1, 57 percent of boys ages 2 to 5, 63 percent of those ages 6 to 10, and 80 percent of those ages 11 to 15 "reached climax."

Dr. Bancroft said it's obvious Mr. Kinsey talked to a lot more than nine people who were [sexually] involved with children, as he researched his report. Many of those interviewed were prisoners.

But he said he's convinced that all the data in Table 34 were provided by an elderly, well-traveled pedophile, now dead, who recorded his sexual experiences with boys over a 40-year period.

It's an affront to humanity that they used a pedophile to show that children enjoy sex, Mr. Stockman said.

Dr. Bancroft said he does not believe that Mr. Kinsey received particularly good evidence from this one chap.

Mr. Stockman said he'd like to find some of the boys included in the Table 34 data. There have been reports some of them have been traumatized, he said.

Dr. Bancroft said the Kinsey Institute does not know those boys' identities.