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Paedophile's diary used in Kinsey Report

By JAMES ADAMS in Washington

THE credibility of the Kinsey Report, which has been the basis of sex education around the world for decades, has been called into question after the disclosure that some of its findings were culled from records kept by a paedophile who assaulted young boys.

The flaws in Alfred Kinsey's report have been acknowledged by the Kinsey Institute, following pressure from politicians and child abuse experts to explain how detailed research on the sex lives of

children could have been carried out legally.

In one of the most controversial parts of the report, known as Table 31, Kinsey showed that children as young as three months old could experience orgasm, while a 13-year-old boy was observed experiencing 26 orgasms in 24 hours.

At the forefront of the campaign against Kinsey's methods was Judith Nelsman, a child abuse expert, who wrote a book on the issue in 1960. "The

sex industry will be shaken to its foundations," said Nelsman. "Whole shelves of books will have to be rewritten."

The Kinsey Report, published in 1948 and supposedly based on exhaustive studies of the sexual behaviour of men, changed the way society viewed sex.

For years the Kinsey Institute had refused to reveal how its research was conducted, saying only that nine researchers had been involved and 317 boys observed. But last

week the institute acknowledged that the data had been obtained from the diary of a paedophile, who had routinely sexually abused young boys.

The director of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction at Indiana University in Bloomington, Mr John Bancroft, said: "The material in the tables comes from one man, with incredible numbers of sexual experiences on which he kept very careful notes."

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The identity of the man is being kept secret. It is known only that he was a factory worker who died in 1955.

Conservatives are using the exposure of Kinsey's fraud as a reason for questioning sex education.

The Family Research Council in the US has produced a video called The Children of Table 31 intended to mobilise opposition to sex edu-

cation introduced by Britain. Zimballist, a former television star, claims that Kinsey's data have been used as a foundation for government policy towards sex and children.

"There has been a gross misuse of power in the pursuit of scientific research and academic recognition," said Ms Dee Jepsen, president of Enough Is Enough, a conservative lobby group. "The tragedy has continued through the years as that research has been used to legitimise the sexual exploitation of children."

A Republican congressman, Mr Steve Stockman, has introduced a bill that calls for a congressional investigation to find out if there was "systematic sexual abuse of children" in the research carried out by Kinsey.

"To ask a child molester about sexual behaviour in children is like asking a rapist about sexual behaviour in women," Mr Stockman said. "Just as we should not use the concentration camp studies done by Nazi Germany, neither should we use studies that are based on the physical

and sexual abuse of children."

Mr Stockman wants the General Accounting Office, the government's watchdog, to submit a detailed report on the affair by May 1.

Kinsey's supporters argue that the statistics on sexual activity of young boys was just part of a much broader body of work which remains unstarished and was produced after Kinsey studied 5300 male sex histories. A study of 6000 female sex histories was produced in 1953.

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