

*I think you'll find this  
report on Kinsey*

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THOMAS M. DAVIS  
11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA  
CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4611

September 8, 1997

Thank you for contacting me regarding your concerns about research carried out by the Kinsey Institute at the University of Indiana in 1948. I appreciate hearing your viewpoint on this issue.

Dr. Alfred Kinsey founded the Institute for Sex Research at Indiana University in 1947. The original mission of the Institute was, "to continue research on human sexual behavior; to accept, hold, use, and administer research materials, a library, case histories, and other materials relating to the project." Today, the Institute for Sex Research still exists although it has been renamed the Kinsey Institute in honor of its founder. The mission of the Institute today is, "to promote interdisciplinary research and scholarship in the fields of human sexuality, gender, and reproduction." Dr. Kinsey began the Institute and research into human sexuality after discovering that few scientific data existed on human sexual behavior. In 1948, Kinsey published *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, the Institute's first research publication. This book contains the information which has led to the inquiries into Kinsey's research methods. Table 34 in this book details the sexual responses of preadolescent males. Allegations about how this information was compiled first surfaced in 1981 when Dr. Judith Reisman accused Kinsey of allowing pedophiles to molest children while doctors from the Institute observed. These allegations resurfaced in 1995 when former Congressman Steve Stockman(R-TX) introduced legislation, the Child Protection and Ethics in Education Act of 1995, during the 104th Congress to open a Congressional investigation into Reisman's charges.

Congressman Stockman's legislation did not move forward in the 104th Congress because Stockman was unable to provide documentation for his allegations and the Kinsey Institute was willing to comply with all requests for documentation of how Kinsey's original research was carried out. Furthermore, Dr. Reisman's original allegations could not be proved nor documented. The current Director of the Kinsey Institute, Dr. John Bancroft, has responded to the various allegations about the way the original research was conducted by Kinsey through documenting Kinsey's stated methods of research and studying Kinsey's research journals from the period. According to Bancroft, Kinsey made his observations about children's sexuality responses through older subjects recalling their own childhood, parents observing their children, and a small number of adult men who had engaged in sexual contacts with children. This latter method was used in Table 34 and has caused the concerns about the tactics used in the information gathering process. Kinsey actually used the information of one pedophile who had detailed his lengthy criminal history involving the molestation of several young boys in personal

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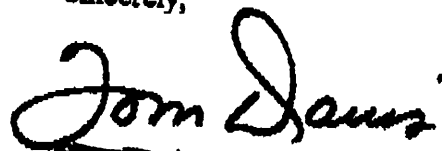
Mr. and Mrs. Philip and Aileen Velthuis  
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journals. Bancroft and the Kinsey Institute have publicly stated that it was incorrect to use only one man and claim it was several and that Kinsey should have been more specific in documenting exactly how he obtained the information contained in Table 34. The identity of the pedophile is unknown but it is known that the subject died in 1955. The pedophile never revealed the identities of his victims although it is known that none were ever victimized at the Kinsey Institute, and none were victimized during the period that Kinsey interviewed the man. Moreover, this man was never employed nor paid by the Kinsey Institute for the information he provided. Currently, there have been no new allegations or evidence that would necessitate a Congressional inquiry into Kinsey's research from that period.

In addition, Alfred Kinsey's work received no federal funding. Kinsey did not believe in receiving federal grants for his research. The Kinsey Institute did not accept any federal grants for research they conducted until after Alfred Kinsey's death in late 1956. Furthermore, Kinsey's first book did not endorse or encourage sex education programs in the schools or a federally sponsored program of sex education. It is true that the impetus for sex education programs did grow after the publication of Kinsey's first few major research works. At this time, I do not believe it is necessary to reevaluate the need for sex education programs but I do continue to believe parents have the right to decide whether or not their child will receive sex education at their school.

Again, thank you for writing me and sharing your concerns with me. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional comments or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Member of Congress

TMD:mcm