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THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

JUN 8 1948
May 25, 1948

The Rockefeller Foundation
Rockefeller Center
New York.

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NRC
SEX RESEARCH
KINSEY

Dear Sirs:-

As one who for many years has been doing clinical work in the field of behavior problems involving sex, I am writing to question the advisability of your continued support of the Sex Behavior Project under Kinsey et al at the University of Indiana as it is now being conducted.

To many of us who have had extended experience with psychopathologies involving sex, particularly those of "everyday life", the whole process of this study is misleading and its basic postulates unsound. This is to be seen in the outline itself, swinging as it does around the word "Outlet" as though, forsooth, there is nothing other in the libidinal urge than an excretory relief. That may appear adequate to a zoologist, but it does not generally obtain among experienced practitioners in human psychopathologies. The whole trend and thinking in that field is against this assumption, just because clinical experience does not support it. Personally I have had many cases showing just this.

The techniques of procedure in the enquiry is just as objectionable. It is naive, superficial. Simply to interrogate multitudes of people about their sex experiences and motives is akin to a health survey of the nation made by asking people to tell what have been their sicknesses and the causes therefor. Certainly medical diagnosis does not rest upon symptoms as a patient may report and interpret them.

The very fact of the wide sale of this Report is evidence of the disservice you are rendering in it. For it is natural that anyone under strain of a guilt complex or seeking further self-justification in violating current moral sanctions welcomes its implications. The high-handed dismissal of "Sublimation" (e.g., p. 206) as unreal, is utterly at variance with clinical experiences and leads to a pessimism which is harmful as well as unjustified.

Respectfully Yours,

Charles Reed Zahniser
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