Dr. Gordon also signed Humanist Manifesto II, as did a number of SIECUS officials. In 1985 he was the recipient of the Raymond Bragg Award for Scholarly Contributions and Personal Committment to Humanism by the American Humanist Association.

It is important that, as you go through this newsletter, you understand the thinking expressed in the Manifestos to understand Dr. Gordon's work. For those of you who have copies of the Manifesto, you'll find Dr. Gordon listed as one of the signers on page 28.

The following are random phrases from the Manifesto with page numbers:

> As in 1933, humanists still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in the prayer-hearing God.. ...is an unproved and outmoded faith. (13)
>
> As non-theists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity. (16)
>
> Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. (16)
>
> Although humans...need economic and political goals they also need creative values by which to live. (17)
>
> Ethics is autonomous and situational needing no theological or ideological sanction..... We strive for the good life, here and now. (17)
>
> The conditions of work, education, devotion, and play should be humanized. Alienating forces should be modified or eradicated (Emphasis ours).....People are more important than decalogues, rules, proscriptions, or regulations. (19)
>
> We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. (21)

ON SEXUALITY

> ....we believe that intolerant attitudes often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct. The right to birth control, abortion and divorce should be recognized. (18)
>
> The many varieties of sexual exploration should not in themselves be considered "evil"...Short of harming others or compelling them to do likewise, individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their life styles as they desire. (18)

The above philosophy is apparent in the work of Dr. Gordon. On the next page you will find a review of a pamphlet that Dr. Gordon also signed. This review was sent to most of the elected officials in Anne Arundel County, and many statewide, when we protested tax dollars being spent to hire him as featured speaker for the 7th Annual Child Protection Symposium, sponsored by the Maryland Department of Human Resources HELP Resources Project on June 17, 1987. The primary topic of the Symposium was "child abuse prevention". This was a government agency hiring this man to speak on "child abuse prevention" to teach government employees, whose job it is to work with the abuser, the abused, and their families. After reading the following, you may wonder, as we do - what is the state government's definition of child abuse?

In 1976 a small book was published entitled A NEW BILL OF SEXUAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES by Lester Kirkendall. It was prepared as a detailed explanation of the brief section on sexuality in Humanist Manifesto II and it was signed by 37 humanists, many of whom are in the forefront of humanistic sexology. Suggestively pornographic pictures are throughout the book including pictures of nude children.

We quote the following:

"In any case, human beings should have the right to express their sexual desires and enter into relationships as they see fit, as long as they do not harm others or interfere with their rights to sexual expression."(p.5)

"Repressive taboos should be replaced by a more balanced and objective view of sexuality based on a a sensitive awareness of human behavior and needs... As these taboos are dispelled and an objective reappraisal ensues, numerous sexual expressions will be seen in a different light. Many that now seem unacceptable will very likely become valid in certain circumstances... the use of genital associations to express feeling of genuine intimacy rather than as connections for physical pleasure or procreation alone, may then transcend barriers of age, race, or gender."(p.9)

"Likewise, taboos that cause people to feel that viewing the genitals is an obscenity or that any verbal or visual expression of the sex act is pornographic undermine objectivity and lead to demands for censorship." (p.11)

"Involved in the right to birth control is the right to voluntary sterilization and abortion." (p.15)

"Sexual morality should come from a sense of caring and respect for others; it cannot be legislated...forms of sexual expression should not be a matter of legal regulations...The punishing and ostracizing of those who voluntarily engage in socially disapproved forms of sexual conduct only exacerbate th e problem." (p.15)

"The findings of the behavioral sciences demonstrate that deprivation of physical pleasure, particularly during the formative periods of development, often results in family breakdown, child abuse, adolescent runaways, crime violence, alcoholism, and other forms of dehumanizing behavior."(p.17)

"Childhood sexuality is expressed through genital awareness and exploration... Masturbation is a viable mode of satisfaction for many individuals, young and old, and should be fully accepted. Just as repressive attitudes have prevented us from recognizing the value of childhood sexual response, so have they prevented us from seeing the value of sexuality in the middle and later years of life...The joy of touching, of giving and receiving affection, and the satisfaction of intimate body responsiveness is the right of everyone throughout life. (pp. 17 & 19)

"Until now our bodies have been in bondage to church and state, which have dictated how we could express our sexuality. We have not been permitted to experience the pleasure and joy of the human body and our sensory nature to their full capacity." (p.23)

Signers include: Sol Gordon, Syracuse University and John Money, professor of pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University.

Emphasis of words does not appear in the original.