



MN Child Protection League

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Follow the Money Trail:

How a scientific cover-up led to the gender identity deception

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John Money—sexologist and professor of pediatric psychology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland—was a pioneer in the field of gender identity and transsexualism. He believed in the plasticity of human gender identity and viewed it as a social construct. Money was convinced that people were born sexually neutral—a blank slate. He just needed to prove it. Then he met David Reimer.

David (known then as Bruce) was one of two identical twins born in 1965 to Ron and Janet Reimer of Winnipeg, Manitoba. David suffered a botched circumcision at eight months of age that caused irreparable penile damage. Desperate for hope, the parents contacted Dr. John Money who had been featured on a Canadian television program.

Money was a smooth talking opportunist who was looking to make a name for himself by advancing his gender theories. He assured the young couple that their son could be raised like a girl.

At twenty-three months of age their son was surgically castrated. His name was changed to Brenda. At Christmas, while Brenda's twin brother Brian received trucks and Tinkertoys, Brenda received dolls, a sewing machine, and a jump rope.

Money ignored the warning signs of Brenda's rebellion against the violation of her true identity, and presented her to the media as a successful sex-reassignment case. The Reimers, in turn, trusted Dr. Money and continued to raise their boy as a girl—forcing Brenda to wear a dress. Brenda began to resist.

Brenda liked to play like a boy. She built forts and loved snowball fights. She used the jump rope to tie up her friends. The sewing machine collected dust. She had an innate feeling that something was terribly wrong.

Meanwhile, Dr. Money achieved fame as the brilliant doctor who successfully proved gender change was possible. He reported his success to the scientific and medical community. For decades he was championed as the expert in the emerging field of gender reassignment. He became the co-founder of the gender clinic at Johns Hopkins University, where gender reassignment surgery was performed.

There was a dark side to Dr. Money, however. It was a side that was kept secret from the Reimer parents. Behind closed doors, during the twins' office visits, Dr. Money forced Brian and Brenda to undress and engage in acts of incest with one another. Brenda was shown pornographic films to teach her what the female sexual role was to include. Money took naked photos of both of them.

By age twelve, Brenda was severely depressed and refused to continue treatment with Dr. Money. In desperation, Brenda's parents broke their silence and told their son the truth about the gender reassignment. At age fourteen, Brenda chose to undo the damage and live as David—a boy.

The story does not have a happy ending. At the age of thirty-five, three years after going public about their sordid past with Dr. Money, Brian (one of the twins) died from a self-inflicted overdose. A short time later his brother David committed suicide.

A prize-winning case for gender neutrality? Just the opposite. The Reimer case stands instead as a complete refutation that gender is a social construct. Nurture cannot override genes. Altering gender identity is a recipe for disaster.

It comes as no surprise that Dr. John Money was a disciple of the infamous Dr. Alfred Kinsey, the biologist and sexologist whose legacy of depravity and corruption lives on today. Money shared Kinsey's views and was a champion for nudism, bisexual group sex, and pedophilia. He, like Kinsey, rejected any limitations on sexual activity and used the rare phenomenon of intersex infants—"accidents of birth"—as justification for a pansexual ideology without restraint.

Dr. Money, like Kinsey, was finally exposed as a fraud and his Gender Identity Clinic was shut down. Unfortunately it was too late for others who Money had treated and continued to suffer from gender issues.

Money coined the term "gender identity," and gender advocates today continue to teach school-age children the myth that gender is fluid. This simply is not true. Absent "accidents of birth," gender is predetermined in the womb.

The complementary nature of male and female is foundational to civilization and goes back to the dawn of creation. John Money tried to play God. David Reimer believed God would hold Money accountable for the lives he destroyed. Before David died he said, "One day he's going to meet his maker, and all those lives he ruined will be judging him."