

# 'A baby' as a means by which

## 1944

I sent them both to specialists, who reported that they were puzzled at their infertility, as there seemed to be no reason on either side. In due course the adoption was arranged and carried out. Within a year a baby was born to the

And now, after receiving a visit from Mrs. this morning, I have no doubt that the family is to be still further enlarged. It's not by any means the first time I have known of this sequence of events.<sup>1</sup>

## 1952

Babies are still handed over for therapeutic purposes by the doctor, she told the National Association for Mental Health. A barren woman is given a baby to adopt because it is thought that it will improve her condition. Sometimes an adopted baby is advised as a way of mending an unhappy marriage. It is thought that the poor child will improve the couple's relationship but often that baby becomes the rope in a habitual tug-of-war.<sup>2</sup>

## 1965

The Social workers concern is with childlessness or infertility, but the particular area of competence is, not in it's treatment, but in assessment or resolution of the effects on the marital relationship of the couple...The ultimate objective of Adoption is such a planned change, through helping to make a family where before one did not exist...But before the placement can be made there are other minor or contributory changes in the social functioning of various individuals where the social worker's part is well defined...and that is...The natural parents must resolve, if possible, conflicts about the surrender of the child.<sup>3</sup>

## 2010

I think that adoption for single mothers and those considering abortion should be heavily promoted. I adopted my eldest son back in the early 70's when adoption of single girl's babies was the norm. This relieved the pressure on fertility and allowed a subsequent three natural births to occur. Sure it was traumatic for the girls to give their babies up, but I would think no more traumatic than having an abortion.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Clinics For The Childless To Boost Birth Bate. (1944, January 15). The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931-1954), p. 3. Retrieved March 6, 2011, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48781449>

<sup>2</sup> <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/49240598>

<sup>3</sup> During the Proceedings of a Seminar to proclaim the Adoption of Children Act 1965, Miss Mary McLelland exposed the true purpose of promoting infant adoption in divulging that the Social Worker's concern was with resolving the conflicts of infertility and childlessness within marriage. Contact Origins Inc for a copy of this seminar: <http://www.originsnsw.com/>

<sup>4</sup> "The End of Adoption in Australia?", News.com.au, Retrieved March 6, 2001, from [http://blogs.news.com.au/naughtycorner/index.php/news/comments/the\\_end\\_of\\_adoption\\_in\\_australia/P40/](http://blogs.news.com.au/naughtycorner/index.php/news/comments/the_end_of_adoption_in_australia/P40/)