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A Survey of
**ADOPTION PRACTICES
IN NEVADA**



Prepared by the Office of the
Attorney General

June, 1961

Distributed by the
**Nevada Legislative Counsel
Bureau**

JUL 18 1975

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

A SURVEY OF ADOPTION PRACTICES IN NEVADA

Prepared by the Office of the Attorney General

The Honorable Roger D. Foley, Attorney General of Nevada
John A. Porter, Chief Deputy Attorney General
David Parraguirre, Special Deputy Attorney General, Nevada
State Welfare Department
Ernest A. Mitler, Special Investigator for the Attorney General

June, 1961

Distributed by the
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Carson City, Nevada

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1961

INTRODUCTION

In compliance with the provisions of Chapter 17, Statutes of Nevada, 1951, the Office of the Attorney General was required to study alleged law violations and unsound practices surrounding adoption practices in Nevada. Such study to be executed under the supervision of the Legislative Commission.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

The Attorney General assigned the study to Mr. Conrad A. Miller to complete this study. Mr. Miller was assisted by Mr. David A. Ferraguirre, Special Deputy Attorney General for the Nevada State Welfare Department.

Assemblyman Archie Pozzi, Jr., Chairman

Senator B. Mahlon Brown

Senator Floyd R. Lamb

Senator Charles D. Gallagher

Senator Walter Whitacre

Assemblyman F. C. Buckingham

Assemblyman Glenn Jones

Assemblyman James C. Bailey

Mr. Miller began investigation of adoption practices in Nevada during the latter part of the 1951 session of the Nevada Legislature. On June 15, 1952, the completed report was presented to the members of the Nevada Legislative Commission at a special meeting of the Commission. It was subsequently released to the newspapers of Nevada, as well as any interested party requesting a copy of the study. The members of the Nevada press which were present at the meeting agreed to maintain confidentiality insofar as revealing the names of children, natural and adoptive parents named in the report.

Although this report is now a matter of public record, we wish to state that every possible endeavor be taken to protect the names of natural and adoptive parents and children mentioned in the report.

CONRAD A. MILLER
Attorney General

INTRODUCTION

In compliance with the provisions of Chapter 17, Statutes of Nevada, 1961, the Office of the Attorney General was required to study alleged law violations and unethical practices surrounding adoption practices in Nevada, such study to be executed under the supervision of the Nevada Legislative Commission.

The Attorney General subsequently retained the services of Mr. Ernest A. Mitler to complete this investigation, with the assistance of Mr. David A. Parraguirre, Special Deputy Attorney General for the Nevada State Welfare Department.

Mr. Mitler was retained by the Attorney General on the basis of his outstanding qualifications and background in the field of adoptions, as follows:

1939	Yale University, B.A.
1943	Columbia University Law School, L.L.B.
1943-1955	Assistant District Attorney, New York County. During this period, Mr. Mitler investigated and tried many "baby black market" cases in New York.
1955-1958	Associate Counsel, United States Senate Juvenile Delinquency Committee. During this period, three hearings were conducted on irregular adoptions.
1960	Special Investigator, State of California Department of Social Welfare. Mr. Mitler prepared a survey of irregular adoption practices in California, which resulted in several indictments being brought against persons believed to be involved in irregular adoption practices.

Mr. Mitler began investigation of adoption practices in Nevada during the latter part of the 1961 Session of the Nevada Legislature, and on June 30, 1961, the completed report was presented to the members of the Nevada Legislative Commission at a special meeting of the Commission. It was subsequently released to the newspapers of Nevada, as well as any interested party requesting a copy of the study. The members of the Nevada press which were present at the meeting agreed to maintain confidentiality insofar as revealing the names of children, natural and adoptive parents named in the report.

Although this report is now a matter of public record, we would urge that every possible precaution be taken to protect the names of natural and adoptive parents and children mentioned in the report.

ROGER D. FOLEY
Attorney General

1961 SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Senate Bill No. 40 - Senators Brown, Gallagher, Lamb and Whitacre

(By request of the Legislative Commission)

CHAPTER 17

AN ACT making an appropriation from the general fund in the state treasury to enable the attorney general to complete an investigation and inquiry into possible violations of law and unethical conduct and practices regarding placement and adoption of children and to enable the attorney general to publish and disseminate a report thereon; imposing certain duties on the legislative counsel and the legislative commission; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

WHEREAS, The attorney general has heretofore conducted an investigation and inquiry into possible violations of law and unethical conduct and practices regarding placement and adoption of children and has published a preliminary report thereon; and

WHEREAS, Completion of such investigation and inquiry and the publication and dissemination of a final report on the subject is deemed necessary in order to provide further information upon which the 51st session of the Nevada legislature may act; now, therefore,

The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund in the state treasury the sum of \$10,000 to enable the attorney general to complete an investigation and inquiry into possible violations of law and unethical conduct and practices regarding placement and adoption of children and to enable the attorney general to publish and disseminate a written report thereon.

SEC. 2. The investigation shall be completed by the attorney general in cooperation with the legislative counsel and under the supervision of the legislative commission.

SEC. 3. Any unexpended portion of the money herein appropriated shall revert to the general fund on July 1, 1961.

SEC. 4. This act shall become effective upon passage and approval.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Las Vegas-born babies are being sold to California couples by a well-organized, million-dollar-a-year ring operating in Nevada with its headquarters in Los Angeles, for \$1100 to \$4000 a child. The nerve center of this racket is a "boiler room for babies" or "bucket shop" camouflaged as the law office of Ralph Benson, a now disbarred California attorney. In lieu of selling stock from a battery of telephones in Benson's headquarters, a crew of girls were constantly engaged in recruiting and soliciting customers and babies. Dr. Ralph LaCanna and Atty. Robert Cohen were Benson's Las Vegas agents who fed him babies for his Los Angeles customers. The ring consisted of a group of 15 persons, doctors, lawyers, and unscrupulous housewives located in Los Angeles, and New York, many of whom are presently under indictment for their black market baby operation. One Las Vegas baby that was sold for \$4000 by this ring went to a Los Angeles adoptive father who had been arrested and convicted on a charge involving a sexual offense with children.

2. Under existing Nevada law anyone, a criminal, an insane person and a professional baby seller can operate an unlicensed adoption agency and not violate the criminal laws of this state. Baby selling is not a crime in Nevada and Nevada is the only state that fails to make unlicensed child placing a crime.

3. Dr. Thomas Wyatt, convicted abortionist of Lake Tahoe and Carson City, blended his abortion business with an interstate adoption traffic. West Coast and Nevada girls too far advanced in their pregnancy to be aborted by Wyatt lived in his casino-motel in Carson City Hot Springs during the pre-natal period, were delivered by Wyatt who placed their children for adoption. Wyatt's adoption-abortion business is on a vast, interstate plane. In fact, in some instances, chartered planes flew the pregnant girls into a private airport near the Carson City Hot Springs, a hotel gambling casino in Carson City. Wyatt worked with some of the leading law firms in Reno. He charged only very nominal fees.

4. The best organized, most extensive interstate child placing business in Nevada is headed up by Mrs. Jean Edgar of Sparks, Nevada. Mrs. Edgar, operating with Dr. Tom Mullis, Dr. Mohler, and Dr. William Bryan (presently under a morals indictment in Reno) has placed children extensively in all the western states for amounts varying from \$400 to \$1200.

5. Flagrant, dangerous and fatal irregularities are present in an alarming number of Nevada private adoptions.

A) Hospital releases and consents for adoption are commonly signed in blank by natural parents in Nevada, a non-criminal violation of the Nevada law.

B) Frequently married women sign consents in Nevada falsely representing that they are unmarried. The absence of their husband's consent, if he is the father of the child, makes the adoption faintly defective and voidable. Many Nevada attorneys are careless and irresponsible in ascertaining whether the child is legally free for adoption. California refuses to accept Nevada consents for adoption for this reason.

C) One married woman forged her husband's consent to adoption, demonstrating the dangers of consent to adoption secured privately outside of court.

6. A sea of lost children exists in Nevada. The mechanics of releasing children from hospitals under the name of attorneys and doctors rather than the names of the adoptive couples makes it impossible to ascertain the whereabouts of these children. A blanket of darkness is thrown around the fate of these children by the techniques being used by certain attorneys and doctors involved in placing children outside of the state of Nevada. Nevada couples who have applied for adoption to the local agencies should be informed that one of the reasons for the shortage of children in the state is that these very children are being transported for adoption in this devious manner to California and Utah. Utah and not Nevada is the one of the main outlets for Nevada-born children.

7. Newspaper advertisements in The Las Vegas Review Journal have been one of the principal mediums through which Nevada children have been taken out of the state for adoption. These advertisements often placed in a deceptive and confusing manner have frequently been arranged for with the sanction of Salt Lake City and Las Vegas attorneys. Las Vegas attorney Rulon Earl has played an undetermined but major role in arranging these out-of-state newspaper triggered kind of adoptions. In one instance an ad was placed by one Larry Phelps who wished to place his child for adoption. Phelps has a major criminal record and asked \$6000 for his child.

8. A female racketeer operating a brothel in Las Vegas under the guise of a massage parlor, Donna Scott, was assisted in her determination to fraudulently pass off four children born to unwed mothers as her own by Las Vegas attorney Norman Cornwall and Clark County doctor Glenn Davis, James French, and Dr. Kazan. Birth certificates were made out in each of these cases representing that Donna Scott was the true and natural parent of these children. The evidence is overwhelming that the doctors and the lawyer involved had knowledge of this fraud. This suggests that this kind of criminal fraud is possibly a common practice in Southern Nevada. There is no evidence that the professional persons were motivated by economic considerations in these instances. Donna Scott's motivation was to develop a family of her own, knowing full well that with her criminal background she would be unable to secure a formal adoption decree in court.

9. The State Department of Welfare's program for financial assistance to unmarried mothers is one of the best in the country. On the other hand, Nevada is the only state that does not have a shelter for unmarried mothers. The Department has high principles and attempts to conform with sound adoption practices. An unsympathetic and often hostile attitude by the Nevada Bar towards a sound child welfare program has frustrated the Department and resulted in a pathetically weak adoption program in the state. Fear of retaliation, lack of status, exposure to personal vindictiveness by certain local politicians have made impotent the Department's program.

10. Nevada law and the bulk of the Nevada bar fail to recognize the distinction between child-placing and the securing of the final adoption decree. Child-placing is outside the orbit of the practice of law -- it is purely a human relationship problem. In most states systematic child-placing is restricted to authorized agencies.

11. Many babies have been removed until recently for adoption from the Southern Memorial Hospital in Las Vegas by persons who gave no identification in a highly reckless and irresponsible manner. This has been now corrected under Administrator Stagg.

12. "Ether consents" are common in Nevada. These consents are secured from natural mothers so soon after birth that often the mother has not psychologically or physically recovered from the delivery.

13. Many Clark County hospitals have established a cruel policy requiring natural mothers placing babies for adoption to physically carry the children from the hospital. This inflicts serious emotional damage on the mothers.

14. Babies being placed for adoption are frequently released from hospitals in the name of an attorney or doctor blocking vital data as to persons having custody of the child. In one Washoe case a former District Attorney while in office removed a child. The hospital release reads that the child was released to the District Attorney of Washoe County.

15. An absurd condition exists in that in private adoptions the Welfare Department's home study is extremely superficial; in fact, it is scarcely a real study. In Washoe County, normally no study is made at all, because the Court fails to direct that one be made. However, in agency placements in Clark County not only does the agency make an exhaustive home study before placement, but the Welfare Department in turn makes a home study. In effect in situations where the most protection and investigation is required, little, if anything, is done. While in the situations that are most carefully screened and secure, a double and unnecessary study is made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Under the existing complacent attitude of the community towards Nevada adoption practices, it would be futile to strengthen the Nevada adoption law. The community must be alerted through a public hearing to the serious defects and dangers prevailing under present practices. Adoption laws are frequently ignored, circumvented, or simply openly violated when a community fails to accept the principles upon which the law is based. Sound child welfare practices as carried out in many of the states are not part of the Nevada culture. It is therefore recommended that a strenuous educational program be embarked on:

1. A citizens' committee on adoption on a state-wide basis should be established, modeled on the one that took California from a mediocre state in the adoption field up to the highest level in the country. This should not be a token committee but an active functioning one. Most committees on social problems are straw committees. In California the Citizens' Committee on Adoption had 640 vitally active members. There was a sense of electricity about its operation, even inspiration -- and that is what Nevada needs.

2. Baby selling should be made a crime. Larry Phelps, a criminal, with an extensive record, was able to offer his child for sale for \$6000 and escape conviction because Nevada has no law against baby selling. Ralph Benson and his associates have had a field day in Las Vegas selling Nevada children. There is presently no action that can be taken against these individuals for their vicious conduct in Nevada.

3. The Nevada legislative bodies should urge the Federal Government to enact a law against Interstate baby selling. Baby selling in Nevada is on an interstate level principally and there is presently no Federal law against baby selling.

4. Nevada should establish in Clark and Washoe counties a shelter for unmarried mothers. A wage home program for unmarried mothers should be developed. This means that a group of homes would be available to send unmarried mothers to who do not wish to live in the regular maternity shelter.

5. The entire Nevada adoption law should be rewritten from beginning to end by the top experts in the country. The present law is the weakest adoption law in the United States. Since Nevada is only pioneering now in good services in the adoption field there is a good chance that by starting from scratch that Nevada can have one of the best adoption laws in the nation.

6. The new Nevada adoption law should limit the operation of adoption agencies to licensed organizations, it should draw a distinction between child placing and the securing of a formal adoption decree. It should define clearly the meaning of the word "placing." New Jersey, New York, California have good adoption laws that could be good frames of reference for Nevada.

7. Criminal records should be obtained of all applying for adoption in both agencies and private cases. A high percentage of casino employees have arrest records that might reflect on their suitabilities to adopt a child.

8. The present policy in many Nevada hospitals compelling natural mothers to carry out children from the hospital premises and hand the children in adoption cases to the adoptive couple is brutal and barbaric and should be immediately terminated.

9. The Welfare Department in conducting home studies in private adoptions should always interview exhaustively the natural mother, secure a complete statement in detail as to the circumstances under which the placement was arranged, and obtain a certified copy of the birth certificate of the child in each case.

10. All children released for adoption from hospitals should only be released in the name of or to the adoptive couple. The present policy of hiding and blocking the identity of the persons receiving the child is extremely dangerous.

11. County Welfare employees who presently appear to be oblivious of the State's adoption program should be thoroughly schooled in the fact that the State has a liberal program for assisting unmarried mothers. Further, the policy of Clark County Welfare Department of urging in a determined way that unmarried mothers return immediately to the very community they have just fled from should be terminated. It is a cruel policy. County workers should be drilled in the existing facilities to assist unmarried mothers in their own state and in California. Some mothers have stated that they contemplated suicide for lack of guidance and assistance.

12. To combat the sea of lost children and the darkness surrounding the fate of children being placed for adoption, the State Welfare Department should establish a complete central file on all adoption cases in Nevada.

13. The Welfare Department of California, Nevada and Utah should make a firm effort to get all the facts in detail surrounding placements made between the States. It is not recommended that anyone should be prosecuted as a result of the instant report. The tradition in Nevada has been to permit every loose and careless practice to flourish without challenge. There has never been an effort to impose any control over what would constitute in other states irregularities and abuses. Anyone and everybody places children for adoption in Nevada without compunction. The real criminal is a pathetically lax, apathetic system and an almost callous attitude towards the social values involved in child adoption. Few persons in Nevada have ever been exposed to progressive social agency standards. It would be unfair to suddenly initiate criminal prosecution in this setting.

14. Parental rights should be judicially terminated. Gross and shocking abuses result from the present system of presenting a privately obtained consent to the court. These consents are riddled with false names, false statements as to the mother's marital status and other inaccuracies.

15. The Nevada law should draw a sharp distinction between the process of securing of adoption decree and the placing out process.

16. The petition for adoption should be enlarged to include a copy of the birth certificate, and a verified statement as to the circumstances under which the arrangements were made, including a full statement as to all monies expended. By enlarging the scope of the petition that foundation for a sound home study is made in private adoptions.

17. Duplicate home studies of Catholic Welfare cases, a useless step, should be eliminated. Time and energy devoted to these studies in Clark County could best be spent in making more complete studies in private cases.

18. The time for making the home study in independent adoptions should be advanced to as close to the time of placement as possible. Under existing practice, the home study is made six months after the time of placement, when the child is firmly established in the adoptive home and any undoing of the existing situation would have a tragic, human impact.

19. Without exception, in private adoptions, all natural mothers should be contacted. Trouble area could be identified quickly this way, and community services could be made available to some of the extremely disturbed mothers who are putting out children for adoption each year.

For example: Mrs. Rohe, four children in two years.

Mrs. Forry, three children in recent years.

Grace McKinsey, who has had eight children, and placed one recently, and is in and out of the police court continuously because of assaults by her lovers or husbands.

Furthermore, and this is basic, contacting the natural mothers makes certain that the child is legally available for adoption.

CONCLUSION

Adoption is one of the most delicate, sensitive processes in our society -- it is a human relationship, not essentially a legal or judicial problem. The tools of the social sciences -- psychology, psychiatry and family guidance -- are appropriate to meet the intensive and complex problems arising in the adoption field. The commercial techniques and attitudes of business and the practice of law cannot meet the needs of emotionally disturbed unmarried mothers or ascertain on a day-to-day basis the suitability of adoptive couples. The acceptance of this principle is necessary in Nevada before any genuine progress can be made in upgrading adoption practices.

LOS ANGELES BABY RING

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Orville Salzman, 41240 Mulholland Drive, Los Angeles, California, Phone No. GRanite 71419, May 23, 1961.

"We heard of Benson at a party two years ago. We called him up, went to his office. 'There are two plans to get babies,' he said. 'If you want to take your chances it will cost only \$500.00, nothing is guaranteed -- might work out and might not. The guaranteed plan costs \$3,000.00. You are assured of a baby if the case blows up, the mother asks for the baby back. I will replace that child.'

"Early in February of '59 Benson called us from Las Vegas. He had a baby. We met him in his office in Los Angeles. The price was \$3,925.00. We gave it to him in one check. Here is the receipt (see Exhibit 1). We paid him before we got the child. Benson said he had to spend three or four days doing some legal work in Las Vegas, that is why the price went up nearly a thousand dollars. The baby was at Dietta Hough's home. Benson said he carried the baby to Los Angeles in a valise on the plane. I guess he used the valise as a kind of cradle. He wanted us to use Dr. Lax for the baby -- we refused. Our baby was born February 8th, 1959. Thereafter Benson would call about once a week and say, 'Do you want another baby?' He said, 'It wouldn't cost as much this time.' Later a Betty Baker kept calling saying that Benson had turned the solicitation work over to her. She kept asking whether we wanted another baby."

The Salzmanns have a nice home on a hilltop. Mr. Salzman was arrested for violating Section 674a, California Penal Code. This involves some sexual misconduct with children on a school playground. He plead guilty, however, to disturbing the peace August 8th, 1950. His booking number was 21256.

Benson probably pocketed at least \$1500.00 on this case.

On May 21 the natural mother, Virginia Jackson, was interviewed at 212 East Charleston. She is now Mrs. Mariotti employed as a night maid at the Tropicana. She has a record for prostitution out of state.

"I wanted to place my baby for adoption. I was divorcing my husband, the father of the child. I went to Attorney Robert Cohen. Cohen told me that Ralph Benson in Los Angeles specialized in adoptions and knew a lot of wealthy people. Cohen said the people who adopted paid the hospital, medical bill, would pay for my divorce and the transportation to Los Angeles. Dr. Gerald Sylva delivered the baby. After birth in February of '59 I met Benson in Cohen's office. He had me write, in my handwriting, an agreement that I promised to place my child for adoption. I think Benson stayed at Cohen's house -- I am not sure -- in Las Vegas. I never met the Salzmanns. There was a lot of fighting around about the hospital bill. I didn't get any money beyond \$40.00 for the transportation to Los Angeles."

A statement of medical expenses appeared to have been close to a thousand dollars, leaving \$3,000.00 for Benson. It is unknown how much Cohen got.

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bonn of 909 Rodeo Road, Fullerton, California, Phone No. LA-54919, May 23, 1961, in the District Attorney's Office, Los Angeles, California.

(See Exhibit A. The originals of these exhibits were all signed.)

"Learned of Benson through a man who had a chain of butcher stores. The agencies turned me down because I have two children already. I spoke to Kaplan at Benson's office. We got our first baby through Benson in this way. The child was born in California. We paid \$2465.00 on January 21, 1959. Later Benson called us and said he knew of twins in Las Vegas. The twins were born on 8-3-59. Before we got the children on August 18, '59, we gave Benson a check for \$3025.00. We went to Las Vegas, contacted Robert Cohen. We met Dr. LaCanna first. We came back a second time to pick up the babies."

These were the Friebel twins.

Natural parents received nothing financially except transportation to Los Angeles and back. The hospital bill was around a thousand dollars, leaving over two thousand dollars for other services. Since LaCanna apparently gets, according to his words, no more than two or three hundred dollars a case this left about seventeen hundred dollars for Benson and Cohen. The split is unknown.

Interview with Arthur Strech, 10442 Latuna Canyon Road, Sun Valley, California, who adopted through Benson, LaCanna and Cohen the Crader baby born on 5-3-59.

Strech lied through the entire interview. The interview was May 27 in the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. His phone numbers are 74232 and Citrus 23627. Strech, who owns a chain of barbecue stores, was particularly bitter because he had been rejected by other agencies because he was 51 in 1959 and they felt he should not have an infant.

"I agreed that they should not give me an infant at the agency due to my age, but they even refused to help me get an older child. I even wanted an Indian child, I am part Indian myself. I put feelers out for a baby for an independent adoption. A friend of my sister told us about Dietta Hough who had a child for adoption in her home. (Dietta Hough is Benson's chief baby recruiter.) We saw the baby at Dietta's house, she gave us Benson's name. We talked to Kaplan at Benson's office. I paid \$1300.00 in cash. Kaplan said the baby had been examined by Lax."

Further details not recorded since, obviously, Strech was concocting the story. It contradicted another account he had given to the social worker in Los Angeles. In writer's opinion Strech probably paid a very large amount, but this is speculation. This is another Cohen-LaCanna-Benson case. The truth is that Dr. Stevens in El Segundo, who worked with Benson, put the Stretches in touch with Benson.

Interview with natural mother of Strech baby, Audrey Crader Adams, telephone number Midway 2-6383, April 27 at the Stardust.

"I am a food checker at the Stardust. I didn't want to go through one of those newspaper ads when I decided to place my baby for adoption. I have had

seven children. This baby was born out of wedlock. I went to Dr. LaCanna, he referred me to attorney Cohen. Cohen said he would get a friend, who was a lawyer, to place the child. He told me I had to go to a Court in Los Angeles for sole custody action to prove that somebody other than my husband was the father of the child. I got a letter six weeks after delivery from Benson to come to Los Angeles. I saw Benson at his office. He said the people who got the baby had means. He wouldn't tell me their name. He said that the man was eight months over the age limit to get a child through an agency (the age limit is 40, Strech was 51 at the time). After I signed the consent I came back to Benson's office and he gave me \$200.00. My expenses were a lot more, but Benson wouldn't give me any more money. I never saw the adoptive couple."

Undercover visit to Robert Cohen in April, 1960, after learning that a substantial number of babies were being fed to Benson from Las Vegas by attorney Robert Cohen.

I visited Cohen in the role of a prospective adoptive parent in Las Vegas. I asked him if he knew how I could adopt a child. He said, "Yes, go to see Ralph Benson in Los Angeles. It is a regular business with him." He told me it was a cut and dried matter with Benson and that he was the biggest man in the adoption business on the west coast. Cohen further suggested that I go to Yugoslavia and look up a lawyer or a close friend that he had. He said his wife came from Yugoslavia. I didn't get the impression that Cohen was anxious to grasp me as a client, but simply was indicating to me that Benson was the man who had babies.

RE: DONNA SCOTT

On May 23, 1961, we interviewed attorney Norman Cornwall re falsification of Donna Scott's birth certificates. I first told Cornwall that Donna Scott was an underworld figure and that she had four children she had gotten by fraud inasmuch as the natural mothers had gone into the hospital under the name of Donna Scott. Donna Scott and Delores Miller, I told him, both had claimed that he had prepared documents that would support this fraud. I showed him Exhibit B, which is an agreement for natural mother to impersonate Donna Scott. He denied preparing this document and called for his file on the matter. He handed to me an alleged consent for adoption. He refused to give me a copy of it saying that he didn't want to put his neck in a noose. The consent for the adoption read, in effect, that Delores Miller, also known as Donna Scott, promised to give custody of her child to Donna Scott. At first Cornwall didn't seem to grasp the implication of the document until I pointed out the absurdity of Donna Scott coming with another girl, also known as Donna Scott, to his office, whose real name was Delores Miller. A rather embarrassing conversation followed when I pointed out that, obviously, Delores Miller had impersonated Donna A. Scott in the hospital and that this document simply corroborated that fact. I asked if he didn't think it odd that Donna A. Scott, having gotten Mr. Cornwall to prepare the consent, never went to Court on the matter. Also, his memo sheet indicated that he knew that Delores Miller was a totally different person than Donna Scott. Finally he made sort of an effort to speak to me alone out of the hearing of David Parraguirre. He said, "Supposing someone knew that the mother had gone to the hospital under the name of the adoptive couple and just to help them went along on it (these may not have been the

exact words)?"

To clear up the atmosphere I suggested he get in touch with John Porter and explain the system. It was painfully obvious that he was totally unaware of what was happening in the case. Dr. Kazan, who falsified one of the birth certificates, admitted full knowledge of the matter. Dr. French's records prove beyond doubt that he also was aware of the falsification. My only comment in leaving was that this showed some thought should be given to the social consequence of what happens rather than trying to accommodate a woman who has a background of being a female racketeer.

Your Investigator wondered how common the practice was for people with bad backgrounds to receive children in this fashion. Included in Exhibit number C is Donna Scott's record. In essence, she has been arrested for suspected kidnapping, convicted of stealing servicemen's dependency checks, convicted of prostitution.

The following, in summary, are additional cases that were fed in the Los Angeles Baby Ring:

Baby born May 15, 1960, natural mother, Betty Lou Kyker of Las Vegas; adoptive couple Robert and Elaine Joseph of Los Angeles; hospital, Rose de Lima Hospital. The natural mother went to LaCanna who referred her to attorney Robert Cohen. Cohen contacted Jordan Wank under arrest with Benson. Wank is a Beverly Hills attorney in the baby business. Probably Lax was the first person contacted in Beverly Hills since he is the key man in the Los Angeles baby group. Wank states that Cohen called him and told him to contact Dr. LaCanna. Lax actually was the one who notified the Josephs about the case. Lax and Joseph rented a car after coming to Las Vegas and went to Henderson to see the child. They then went to the natural mother's home and Joseph stood in back of the car peeking at the natural mother while Lax spoke to her. Joseph claims the expenses were as follows: Dr. LaCanna, \$300.00; support for natural mother, \$150.00; legal fees to Wank, \$500.00; bus trip for natural mother to Los Angeles, \$30.00; miscellaneous, \$26.00; Rose de Lima Hospital, \$207.00.

This is obviously untrue and minimized the amount since Lax always got a substantial whack in every case. The Josephs returned to Los Angeles because this all happened at the time Wank and Benson were arrested. Apparently Cohen dropped out of the matter.

We were unable, after strenuous efforts, to interview the natural mother in view of the fact that Robert Cohen's associate Peter Flangas threatened investigator Mitler with a civil suit if he persisted in his efforts to interview her.

Another child going to the same group was baby Peters, born 12-21-58. The natural parents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Peters now living in Imperial Beach. LaCanna delivered the baby and, apparently, notified the Borah brothers in Los Angeles, who are in the baby business. The adoptive couple was Philip and Ruth Bline, 4541 Moneta Avenue, Sherman Oaks, California. The Blines had deposited \$950.00 with Borah. Their expenses were: mother support, \$500.00; attorney's fee, \$500.00 (more likely, truthfully, a thousand); doctor's fee, \$250.00; hospital, \$168.00; attorney's trip to Las Vegas, \$40.00. The Borahs had the vicious habit of holding out on \$200.00 in every case from the natural mother until she signed the consent in Los Angeles. The Borahs were pioneers in the baby business and work with Lax.

Interview with Mechleshs in Palm Springs, 781 Via Monte Vista Road on
May 23, 1961.

They received through Lax the Duke baby.

"My husband and I operate beauty schools. We are operating one now in Palm Springs. We got our first baby through Noah Borah in Los Angeles. His fee was a thousand dollars, we paid two thousand dollars. We met Lax in this way because Borah's niece Jane Cjabra, one of my students, acted as intermediary and told us to go to Lax to have our first baby examined. Lax called us one time and said it would be nice to have a little girl with our boy. He called one day and said he had a girl who resembled our boy. We went to see the baby that was born in Las Vegas. Lax took us. We paid \$1700.00. I was very busy at the time and Benson used to call me. I didn't have much time for him." (Investigator saw the two children and they almost look as if they are twins, having identical coloring and similar features. This is speculation, but I believe they paid a very large amount.)

Interview May 29 with Christell Samuels, 1353 West 38th Place, Apartment 10,
phone RE 2-1691.

"I worked with the Bureau of Charities in Los Angeles. For nine months in 1958 and 1959 I worked as a secretary for Ralph Benson. He told me to make believe my name was Mabel Green. He then gave me two file drawers of people who were applying for children through him, or who had already adopted children through him. One of my duties was to call up these people and say, as Benson instructed us, 'We know of a nice, unmarried mother who has just given birth to a little boy. She is a Jewish girl (that is, if the people were Jewish).' I would describe a situation to find out whether the people were interested in getting a child, or a second child. I knew that there was no specific baby in mind but that Benson really wanted to find out if they were still interested. I was working part time, since I was studying legal stenography at Los Angeles City Junior College. It took two or three days to call up the whole list, working together with my friend Alwilda Foster."

The following cases have not been carefully checked into but involve the Los Angeles Baby Ring.

Natural mother Marlene Bishop gave birth on May 8, 1958, at Southern Memorial Hospital; LaCanna was the doctor; Borah was the contact man in Los Angeles; the adoptive couple, Gabriel and Theresa Discone, 14911 Parrone Avenue, Gardena; husband 47; wife 42 years old.

One June 1, 1956, baby girl Duke was placed through the combination of LaCanna and Borah with Alvin and Bernice Fink of 4736 Zalzah Street, Encino; natural mother, Shirley Ann Duke, 1840 $\frac{1}{2}$ Stanford Street, North Las Vegas.

On May 25th, 1961, I interviewed the DuBois couple who had received through the Los Angeles Baby Ring the Forry baby (see Exhibit J). Jordan Wank and Aaron Lax were involved. DuBois live at 1223 Ivesbrook Street in Lancaster, California, telephone, Whitehall 2-2944.

Another couple told them about Dr. Lax, they went to see him in Beverly Hills, Lax said he had babies available, unmarried mothers came to him, he asked what their limit was. They said "\$2000.00." In the middle of April 1959, Lax told them that he had a little boy for them at \$2100.00. This child cost them about twenty-four hundred dollars. It was not a Las Vegas case. Attorney Gelfand received a thousand dollars. Later Lax called them and said he had another baby for them. They were to contact attorney Wank. They said they couldn't stand heavy charges, Wank said it would only be \$1150.00. They flew to Las Vegas and met Lax and Wank in the lobby of the Sands. They spoke to the mother, had dinner with her. That night they gave Wank a check for a thousand dollars in Las Vegas. Wank's fee was five or six hundred dollars; LaCanna, \$300.00; hospital, \$148.00. This happened about Thanksgiving Day, 1960, just about the time Wank was being indicted. They were very upset that the mother was involved in carrying the baby out of the hospital, they thought it was unkind to her. She drove them to the airport. During these evening hours Lax and Wank went to see a few shows which they later attempted to charge to the DuBois. Wank later sent them a bill for \$150.00. They became angry and went to see Wank in Hollywood. They told him he had a lot of nerve charging them for the bills in the nightclubs in Las Vegas. They refused to pay that part of the \$150.00 that had to do with Wank and Lax running up nightclub bills in Las Vegas. They also questioned the justification for Wank receiving \$500.00 for doing practically nothing.

WELFARE

Grace McKinsey was employed for several days to act undercover to discover what kind of services were being given to unmarried mothers by the Welfare Department. The following is her report:

"To Whom It May Concern

"Re: Investigation of Adoptive Practices in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"By: Grace McKinsey.

"On May 18, 1961, I visited the County Relief Society in Las Vegas. The place is very inaccessible, and had I not known the city I would never have found it. To a stranger, alone, this would have been discouraging in itself.

"Upon entering the building, I found there was a large open room with one small room off of it. I approached a 'receptionist' who was encountered in a 'duel' with fly swatters with a co-worker. After sitting for about 5 minutes I was asked the nature of my business and the conversation ran as follows:

"R. Q. Could I help you?

" A. Yes, I would like to inquire about assistance.

"R. Please sign the register.

" (So did.)

"The receptionist then took out a long form and asked a list of my previous residences for the last five years. I asked her the reason for this and she

informed me they would have to establish my legal residence for that would be the point from where my aid would have to come from since I had not resided in Clark County for three (3) years. I asked to talk to the case worker because my problem was a very embarrassing one. (I had made up the story that I was now three (3) months pregnant and that my husband had been overseas eight months.) The 'receptionist' said there was no point in bothering the case worker if there was nothing they could do for me. I asked about medical aid and was referred to the County hospital as she said they handled all medical problems.

"I then mentioned adoption as my only alternative. She knew nothing of any maternity homes where I could go. When I asked about doctors or lawyers who handled such affairs, she was quite indignant and informed me such practices were against the law in this state. However, she did say she thought the Catholic Welfare placed babies.

"She then told me baby placements were handled through the State Welfare Office. She said I might try them. I asked her what the residence requirements were there and she said she imagined they were about the same. She did not know the address of the State Welfare Office.

"I then inquired more about relief and she said they would give 'emergency' relief until my legal residence was established. She did not specify what relief they could give. I asked about help to go back home, and she said they would be glad to pay my way home if I wanted to go. I had the impression that I was being discouraged from seeking further information. She made the offer of fare back home very attractive. I assume they want to get you away so that you will not become a burden to the County.

"On May 19, 1961, after talking to Mr. Mitler, I called the State Welfare Office. I was referred to Mrs. Sine who was very courteous and understanding. She was glad I called her instead of going to a doctor or lawyer. She informed me that the only ones who were eligible for State relief were those who had not lived here long enough for County assistance. She said she'd rather I didn't go to the County hospital but come to them as they would get a private doctor. She also said I need not worry about the home my child would be placed in as they were carefully investigated. She said the County did right in referring me to the State.

"On May 20, 1961, I visited Southern Memorial Hospital which is the County hospital. The receptionist referred me to the admitting department since the out-patient clinic office was closed. The lady I talked to was very understanding and pleasant. After stating my case, I told her I planned to place my baby for adoption. She said that was usually handled through the doctor. She gave me the name of Dr. Fortler of 1005 South 3rd Street, Las Vegas and said he would be happy to handle the adoption. She said the prospective parents would handle all expenses. She told me to call ahead of time so there would be no questions asked upon entering the hospital. She never once mentioned the State Welfare Department. Also stated all medical aid was handled through County office.

"On May 22, 1961, I visited Sunrise Hospital, Las Vegas and talked to a Mrs. Young. I repeated my story to her and was referred to the City Welfare Department listed under Clark County. She said in that way I would never have to worry about the child not having a good home. She could not recommend any doctors or lawyers who would handle the case.

"On May 22, 1961, I also visited the Las Vegas Hospital. I talked to the business manager, and he also referred me to the State Welfare. I asked him if he knew of any doctors or lawyers who would handle the case. He said I would find it much more satisfying to go through the Welfare office. He told me of the recent investigation of the Attorney General's Office. He told me the address and telephone number of the State Office, which I might add is much more accessible and easier to find. He was very kind and understanding and termed my case as 'tragic'.

"On May 22, 1961, I contacted the Boulder City Hospital and was given the same information as at Sunrise and Las Vegas Hospitals. They also recommended me to the State Welfare.

"On May 23, 1961, I called at Dr. Fortier's office to keep my appointment. The receptionist asked me several questions and took a short history of my background. I then went in to see the doctor. He was very nice. He said he would be glad to place my baby and see that I was taken care of in way of hospital and doctor expenses. He said the baby must be taken out of the hospital by the mother herself and laid in the arms of the prospective parents. I could not think of a more cruel way to handle this. However, I was informed at the Las Vegas Hospital that this procedure was no longer followed, that the true mother never once saw her baby. After hearing my story he advised against going to the State Welfare Office because there were too many people involved.

"He mentioned seeing a lawyer, but was reluctant to mention the name of the lawyer.

"He almost insisted on a physical examination, but I had a story prepared to escape that part of the visit.

"He also said he didn't think there would be any problem concerning my husband since I was not living with him at the time of conception and that it was impossible for him to be the father of the child. He said that would be for the lawyer to look into.

"He was very kind, considerate and understanding. It is very easy to see why a girl in trouble would rather deal through him than through a lot of cold-blooded, unresponding people such as those I encountered at the County Welfare Society.

"Signed this 27th day of May, 1961.

Grace McKinsey
117 North 9th Street
Las Vegas, Nevada"

Comment

Obviously, the County Welfare makes every effort to see that the unmarried mother gets out of town and goes to her home. This only results in the girl failing to use existing community resources since these girls have left home to hide their circumstance; further, the State has an excellent program for unmarried mothers, but the County worker led the investigator to believe that she would be confronted with the same eligibility problem if she went to the State. In other words, the statement that the residence requirements by the State were the same as the County in the case of adoptions as in the case of someone wanting financial

assistance would discourage any girl. The County worker should say, "There is a special program administered by the State. If you are thinking of adoption you will not have to meet all of the rigid eligibility requirements for public assistance or the residence requirements." Instead, the County worker merely discouraged my Investigator. What is the good of a good program for unmarried mothers if, at the first point of contact, they are completely frustrated and discouraged? The County is notorious for hustling girls back to their home state; furthermore, it should be noted that the County worker said she knew nothing about any maternity homes. The girl used as an Investigator had, herself, placed a child through newspaper ads with the Utah people. She states that she had contacted Mrs. Fleming, originally the County Welfare worker, for assistance. She claims that she felt so lost after her contact with Mrs. Fleming the first time that she was contemplating suicide until she saw the advertisement in the Las Vegas Review Journal and that someone wanted her child in Utah.

UTAH

Investigator Mitler made a trip to Utah to uncover what lay in back of the large number of advertisements for children placed by Utah couples in the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

On May 16 Don Cassity, Salt Lake City attorney, was interviewed. He stated: "The Strattons came to my home, they were running an advertisement for a baby in the Las Vegas newspaper. They were being advised by a woman who acted as intermediary and helper for many couples who wanted children. (Investigator has discovered that this woman is Mrs. W. G. Wright, 2664 Hillside Drive, Salt Lake City, 17, Utah)." This woman had suggested placing the ad and had given them the name of Rulon Earl to help them in Las Vegas. He had spoken to Earl on the telephone about this woman. After the Las Vegas Sun published an article suggesting that these ads were improper, Earl told Cassity to phone that the set up was bad, that they shouldn't have used a telephone number in the advertisement. Pregnant women who answered the ad were supposed to send their letters to Stratton who forwarded the letters to Cassity and then Cassity passed on information to Rulon Earl. One letter came from Margaret Viduri of Las Vegas. Cassity called Rulon Earl and Rulon Earl interviewed the Viduri girl. Cassity himself spoke to the Viduri girl on the telephone and asked her how much she would require. He then arranged for Rulon Earl to speak with her.

Another couple, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, indicated that they would like to get a baby through the same ad. (Apparently the pattern was, but this is not completely certain, for Mrs. Wright to advise the Salt Lake City people, probably with the guidance from Salt Lake City attorney Richard Byrd, the mechanics of this procedure with variations, and this cannot be completely nailed down, a local family in Las Vegas would be used as a contact guided by Rulon Earl in most instances. This was done to keep Earl out of the placing aspect of the arrangement as much as possible; then Mrs. Wright, or someone, would serve as a buffer for attorney Richard Byrd. When contacted in Salt Lake City, Mrs. Wright became angry and refused to talk to the Investigator. She admitted having placed the advertisements in the Las Vegas papers but said she got no responses. Las Vegas Dr. Hardy stated that Mrs. Wright had been the intermediary for many people in getting children from Greece and had helped Salt Lake City couples get children from Las Vegas.)

(Enclosed are two documents, Exhibit D. The letter from Dr. Hardy to Mrs. Wright establishes a relationship between her, Dr. Hardy and Rulon Earl. This letter indicates that Mr. Earl's suggestion that he merely acts on a commission from Utah Courts is somewhat elastic since, obviously, he was participating in the arrangements during the prenatal period, speaking with the natural mother. This does not mean that there is, necessarily, anything improper, but that he seems to have been anxious to minimize his role in making the arrangements and his knowledge of the newspaper advertisements. The December 26 letter, which is a part of Exhibit D, apparently was composed by an attorney, most likely Richard Byrd. It is clear that neither the attorney in Salt Lake City nor the one in Las Vegas wishes his name used in any respect in connection with the placement. Probably Mrs. Wright was simply a buffer.)

The following are advertisements placed in the Las Vegas Review-Journal by people in this group that knew Mrs. Wright:

October 2, 1960

"PROFESSIONAL engineer and wife desire to adopt baby or small child. Pay all expenses. Can provide love, good happy home and education. Write Box 8544, Review Journal."

(Again Oct. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11)

(Placed by R. E. Kunkel, 1555 S. 14th East, Salt Lake City, Utah)

October 6, 1960

"YOUNG couple desire to adopt baby. Will pay all Expenses. Box 8594, Review Journal."

(Again Oct. 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. Nov. 1, 1960 - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

(Placed by Walt Stewart, 2660 E. 2760 South, Salt Lake City, Utah)

October 21, 1960

"DENTIST and wife desire to adopt child, either newborn baby or older children. Guarantee good. Christian background, education, love and security to child. Will pay mothers expenses. Write to Box 8615, Review Journal."

(Again Oct. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Nov. 1, 1960 - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14)

(Placed by G. J. Wright, 2664 Hillside Drive, Salt Lake City 17, Utah)

November, 1960 - No adoption ads.

August, 1960;

Aug. 3rd, 1960

"DOCTOR and wife desire to adopt baby or child. Pay all expenses. We are able to provide a good happy home. Box 8178 Review Journal."

(Placed by Don W. McBride, 215 Douglas Street, Salt Lake City, Utah)

On May 15, 1961, Mrs. Mutall of Provo stated: "I heard I could get a baby from Las Vegas through the newspaper ads. I placed the ad, we got three replies. The ad was placed on March 8th, 1960. We were so happy we took two of the babies. Mrs. Esther Herbert, Dr. Compton's nurse interviewed the natural mothers for us. She was our contact in Las Vegas. She suggested that we go to Mr. Earl, attorney. Compton was our first contact but he didn't want anything to do with this. He said there was too much trouble about these ads; in fact, he hardly would talk to us about it. Mr. Earl brought the second baby to his house from the hospital in Las Vegas. The first baby was picked up at Mrs. Herbert's house. We gave Mr.

Earl a \$75.00 fee.

RE: MRS. HUGHES

Mrs. Hughes obviously is a minor intermediary such as Jean Edgar in Sparks, assisting St. George, Utah couples in getting children from Las Vegas through newspaper ads. She works with attorney Rulon Earl. (See interview with natural mother Marla Hunter). It should be noted that the Las Vegas Hospital was used in most of her cases. When interviewed, Mrs. Hughes stated that she had placed ads for other couples in the newspapers and had been the intermediary for several friends in arranging placements. She was a little vague on details. Attorney Rulon Earl said that Mrs. Hughes had been a life-long friend of his and he had been the Las Vegas attorney in a few of these cases. Grace McKinsey of the 9th Street Hotel, employed at the Nevada Club, stated, "I was desperate. The County Welfare wouldn't help me, I was ready to commit suicide. I saw the advertisement in the newspaper and got in touch with Mrs. Hughes. She invited me to live at her place in Mesquite. I worked and she took care of my expenses. I gave birth at St. George, Utah after Mrs. Hughes sold her motel. She was a nice woman but she didn't give me any freedom. I was really stuck in her house all the time. If I had known that the Welfare could help me I would have never gone through Mrs. Hughes. Attorney Pickett was the attorney in St. George."

Mary Curnin, 1631 Oakwood Street, a food-checker at the Thunderbird; baby went to R. E. Kunkel. She is about 35, saw the advertisement for adoption in the Las Vegas Review-Journal, wrote to the box number. She received a telephone number and was told to go to Dr. Hardy. She signed the papers in the hospital, she thinks the attorney was Rulon Earl, gave birth in Las Vegas Hospital.

On December 29, 1960 Judy Woods of 2724 Webster Street, North Las Vegas was delivered by Dr. Hardy. She is a 16-year old girl from Brant, Michigan. Her baby was adopted by Merrill and Joan Nelson of 7650 South Wasatch Boulevard, Salt Lake City, who stated that Mrs. Wright had made the arrangements for them. Richard Howe was the Salt Lake City attorney.

RE: EDGAR

Investigator discovered through toll tickets that Mrs. Edgar had, within the last two years, placed many children around the American Fork, Utah. Keith Relchan of American Fork said he had made arrangements through Mrs. Edgar and Dr. Mullis. They received baby born on February 21, 1960, from the Washoe Medical Center. Dr. Mullis got \$350.00; attorney Dale Murphy, \$40.00.

McKermitt Grafts of Custer, Oklahoma, stated that they had received two children through Mrs. Edgar, the first time through Dr. Mullis; second time, Dr. Mohler. They had paid each time around nine hundred or a thousand dollars. In the first case the natural mother was Mary Willis (see interview page, Volume 2); the second baby, the natural mother's name was Darlene Sardella who gave birth on April 7, 1960, Washoe Medical Center. The attorney in this case was Leonard Howard who carried the baby out of the hospital. Grafts came to know Mrs. Edgar through the Milton Theisens of Dinuba, California. Attorney Wooten of American Fork stated: "I have had recently about five cases in which

Mrs. Edgar made the arrangements -- local people. I wondered what it was all about. Suddenly, about a year ago, she dropped in on me just for a chat. I questioned her carefully, she said she was not from the Nevada State Welfare Department, that she had worked with them in the past. She said that she had a definite set-up in Sparks, that she used a trust fund with the adoptive couples, she didn't get any money and that she had placed children extensively."

FINAL REPORT

Adoption Survey

Introduction

Two years ago, while making a study of an alleged international baby-selling racket between Greece and the United States, one Maurice Issachar was interviewed by the writer.

"Mr. Issachar, you are known as one of the most brilliant attorneys in Athens and you have made substantial profit, you have placed over 70 Greek babies in the United States. What do you think the human impact is of some of the reckless techniques that you used?" Without a pause attorney Issachar replied, "Mr. Mitler, my obligation is to follow the provisions of the law. I have done this mathematically, I am not a social philosopher, I am not a social worker. The arrangements I have made are completely legal and that is my sole concern. I leave it to the dreamers and philosophers to answer your question."

If attorney Issachar is correct Nevada is fortunate. The mechanics of securing adoption decrees are well followed, few attorneys or doctors violate existing Nevada statutes in placing children for adoption. The Nevada law does not prohibit baby-selling; in fact, anyone under the existing law can operate an unlicensed adoption agency in the State with impunity. In fact, with the exception of signing a consent in blank, any person adopting attorney Issachar's outlook could readily say that the instant investigation gives the professional services, welfare, doctors and lawyers a clean bill of health in the adoption field because, at least mechanically, the provisions of the present law are being generally followed.

On the other hand, the writer of this report is writing from the viewpoint of one who firmly believes that adoption, essentially, a human relationship problem dealing with highly sensitive emotions and complicated emotional relationships. The writer further believes that the mechanics of securing the formal decree of adoption in court is merely a ratification of an already established relationship.

The following are the basic tenets and points of reference from which this report is written:

a. The impropriety of any adoptive arrangement is judged from the impact on the human beings involved, not on whether there is a mechanical conformity to existing statutes.

b. This is a report about child placing, that phase of the adoption process that centers around making the arrangements with the natural mother and the adoptive couple as to which home the child is to go into. This is not a report about the mechanics of securing a formal adoption decree.

c. The words "regular" and "irregular" will not be used because they are not susceptible of specific definition. This report is written purely from the point of view of the impact on human beings with the arrangements made in each situation.

d. This is not a report about the baby black market, or baby racketeering, since these words have never been susceptible of clear definition. It is a report about how placement arrangements are being made in the State of Nevada and is intended to serve as a background upon which better practices can be built in the future.

Nevada's greatest problem in the adoption field is the inability or unwillingness of professional groups to recognize or identify the various kind of problems that exist. Apparently a large segment of the Bar feels that the only bad adoption practices involve persons who are attempting to profiteer. If no money is made, or only a reasonable amount, then everything is healthy in the adoption field. The plain fact is that some of the greatest social catastrophes have stemmed from the actions of those who, out of emotional fervor, without a desire to make a profit, have operated unlicensed child adoption agencies.

At the chance of repetition and before going into the facts, this is not a report about who is making money out of adoptions and who isn't. This is, essentially, a report about the kind of services being given the natural and adoptive parents and children in Nevada, highlighting dangerous and unwholesome areas.

Five main areas were explored: 1) Activities of Dr. Thomas Wyatt, 2) activities of Jean Edgar of Sparks, Nevada, 3) Impact of Los Angeles baby ring on Las Vegas, 4) placement of Nevada babies in Utah, 5) a brief survey of the services being rendered by the Welfare Department. Also, materials developed surrounding falsification of birth certificates by doctors and lawyers in the matter of Donna Scott. Dr. Thomas Wyatt is a convicted abortionist who originally practiced medicine in Redding, California, and was part owner of the Redding Memorial Hospital in that community. Wyatt was convicted once on an abortion charge in California and more recently in Nevada. He has lost his medical license. Wyatt, while in California, was active in placing children for adoption. He is widely known in northern California as a doctor, as an abortionist and as a child placer. A study was made of his adoption cases in Nevada during the past three years. Wyatt has established himself in Crystal Bay, Nevada, in an informal clinic in a house in Incline Village. Here Wyatt performs abortions on girls referred to him from throughout California and Nevada. He acquired the Carson City Hot Springs in Carson City, a combination of motel, swimming pool, restaurant and gambling casino. Unable to acquire a gambling license because of his earlier abortion conviction the casino was leased out. Many of the mothers, principally California girls, lived during the prenatal period in the motel part of the Hot Springs. They were delivered at the clinic in Crystal Bay; however, if a caesarian were necessary, and this was frequently the case, Wyatt would drive the pregnant girl to the Redding Memorial Hospital seven hours away in California for delivery, which was made by himself or Dr. Charles. The pregnant girls principally came from northern California, the Bay area near San Francisco, the State of Washington and the Los Angeles area. Some came from Reno.

When interviewed many conceded that they had initially contacted Wyatt with the idea of an abortion but that they were too advanced in pregnancy and decided to place their child for adoption. The Hot Springs was considered a good place to live during the prenatal period since it was away from their home community. Many of the girls claim that their fathers knew Wyatt from Redding and that their fathers had made the arrangements. This appears to be a concocted story used to shield, probably, some intermediary who referred them to Wyatt originally for an abortion. In some instances a private charter plane flew the mothers into a private airport near the Hot Springs. Possibly, and this avenue was not fully developed, a plane

was used to bring the girls who wished to be aborted or place the children for adoption right to the Hot Springs at Carson City. In each case Wyatt would have the natural mothers sign a consent for adoption in blank. In two known instances the consents were signed before birth, all of the consents taken by Wyatt were invalid.

Some of the natural mothers were highly pleased with the arrangement and felt that they received understanding and sympathetic care; others reported that they were made work excessively, especially during the summer months, that they were frightened to ask for medical services from Dr. Wyatt who, normally, only gave them a superficial pelvic examination during the prenatal period. They were disturbed by his ferocious temper and only remained because they felt they had no choice. On one occasion one of the mothers was told to return home because she was insistent on receiving more medical care.

The atmosphere surrounding the Wyatt operation was hardly a suitable one for pregnant, unmarried mothers. Wyatt was engaged in an abortion racket, his temper was notorious, his wife would grow hysterical frequently. Two of the girls were living at the Hot Springs during the time Wyatt was being tried on abortion charges and were subject to a great deal of tension during this period. Normally, the mothers either paid \$25.00 a week or worked for their maintenance. During the winter months there was very little work, but during the summer the work became excessive, according to the interviewed mothers.

Dr. Henry Stewart, who cared for some of the mothers when Wyatt went to Mexico, was shocked to discover that the girls had received practically no prenatal care. It is ironical that Wyatt, being a doctor, failed to give these girls sound medical care during the prenatal period.

The adoptive parents who were interviewed, who received these children, were principally business contacts of Wyatt in the Reno-Carson City area, former associates and friends from Redding and a group of persons referred to him by other adoptive couples. Wyatt charged very little for his medical services and can hardly be accused of operating a black market in babies. In many instances the couples merely paid a very minimal hospital and medical fee. Typically, the total charges were between one hundred twenty-five and two hundred fifty dollars. Considering the Las Vegas babies were being literally sold in amounts varying from two to four thousand dollars, in some instances, Wyatt can scarcely be accused of being avaricious. Wyatt appeared to be concerned about the qualifications of the adoptive couple. Most of the couples on the surface appear to be well-adjusted, middle-income young couples working in the Carson City-Tahoe area.

Apart from actually operating an unlicensed adoption agency in conjunction with his abortion business Wyatt had little regard for the law concerning consent, not only were the consents for adoption signed in blank but, in several instances, married girls signed the consent as if they were unmarried without their husband's consent. In one instance the adoption is definitely void and could be set aside by the natural father and husband (natural mother's name, Karen Mary).

There is a total carelessness in Nevada in determining the legal availability of a child for adoption. Repeatedly instances were disclosed where consents were signed by married women where it is likely that their husband was the father of the child. On the surface of it the consents present a picture

of an unmarried woman. This is an extremely pernicious and dangerous practice. Nevada consents are rarely accepted by the California Social Welfare Department for this reason. Many tragic catastrophes would develop in Nevada if natural fathers, who are husbands, should ever discover the fact that their children have been placed for adoption without their consent. Inevitably, when consents are taken shortly after birth, so-called ether consent in the hospital, or taken in blank in privacy, there is some tendency to misrepresent the true legal status of the child. The present loose method of taking consents in adoptions in Nevada is an invitation to disaster. Not only do the California courts reject all the consents taken by Dr. Wyatt, but the Social Welfare Department in California has found it necessary to study very carefully the consents in all Nevada cases. Often, after months of search, the signature of the natural father and husband is required.

Jean Edgar

Mrs. Jean Edgar of Sparks, Nevada, has operated the largest unlicensed adoption agency in the State of Nevada. Mrs. Edgar has been active in this field in an unauthorized manner for many years. It is impossible to estimate how many children she has placed in Nevada, Oklahoma, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, California and the other western States. Most of the children going to Utah from northern Nevada have been placed through Mrs. Edgar's various contacts amongst Mormon families in Utah. Mrs. Edgar has had a major role, in fact, in a heavy percentage of the independent placements made out of state from northern Nevada. She has worked principally with Dr. Thomas Mullis, Dr. Mohler, attorneys Dale Murphy, Leonard Howard and, occasionally, Jack Streeter. There is no direct evidence that Mrs. Edgar profited from her role in making these arrangements, except to the extent that she frequently had unmarried mothers living in her house as boarders and she received one hundred to one hundred twenty-five dollars per month from adoptive couples for this service. Dr. Mullis, who was the most active in joining with Mrs. Edgar in making these arrangements received, normally, about three hundred fifty dollars for each delivery. For a period of time Mrs. Edgar worked with Dr. William Bryan, who received notoriety as the physician of Joe Conforte. Dr. Bryan is known to have asked for twenty-four hundred dollars for a child and was, obviously, anxious to make money out of his adoptions.

The scope of Mrs. Edgar's operations blanketed the western States and continues right up to the present date. The following incident will throw some light on her operation:

a. She represented to Lois Eldridge that her child was being placed for adoption through the Nevada State Welfare. The hospital release form indicates that the child was being placed through the Nevada State Welfare (See Exhibit F). The child, in reality, was placed privately through Mrs. Edgar with a Fresno, California school teacher, who was interviewed.

b. Natural mother Mary Willis, who lived in the residence during the pre-natal period claimed that Mrs. Edgar was dominant, aggressive, constantly gossiped about the couples she had placed the children with revealing their identity by name. Mary Psycvola claims Mrs. Edgar misled her as to the whereabouts of her child, making her think her child was in Provo, Utah but in reality her child had been sent to California. The natural mother claims that through this device she was blocked from asserting her claim for the return of her child. Exhibit E is a commercial contract drawn by Dale Murphy and Mrs. Edgar for the adoption of this child. This is the application of pure commercial principle in the adoption field.

Mrs. Edgar's main outlets were in the Fresno, California area; Salt Lake City, Utah, and in Reno and Sparks. She claims to place principally with Mormon families; however, many of the couples interviewed were non-Mormons. Mrs. Edgar has presented herself to authorities and attorneys in the western States as if she acted with some degree of sanction from the Mormon church and the Nevada State Welfare Department, although never bluntly claiming direct official status. Her operation comes close to being that of a large-scale, long-enduring interstate adoption agency, not amenable to any control. Originally, she operated with attorney Dale Murphy; lately, she has worked through Reno attorney Leonard Howard.

Actually, in Nevada there are three adoption agencies -- the Welfare Department, Catholic Welfare and Jean Edgar. All operate with the same degree, technically, of authority since there is no law against operating an unlicensed adoption agency.

Several Utah couples interviewed objected to Mrs. Edgar's costs. A Mrs. Hines in Moab, Utah, claims that Mrs. Edgar phoned her and said she wanted \$1200.00 for a child. Mrs. Hines was disgusted and complained to the authorities about this matter. It is curious that the Edgar operation is over such vast geographic territory, often with families that Mrs. Edgar does not know. This is hardly consistent with her claim that she does not benefit from this undertaking, nor is her statement to Dr. Frank Russell that he could charge two or three times his normal fee in adoption matters if he would work with her. Nonetheless, adoptive couples interviewed in California and Utah insist that they paid, normally, between four hundred fifty and nine hundred dollars in cases arranged for through Mrs. Edgar. This is certainly a nominal amount.

Dr. Mullis obviously was commercially benefiting from these arrangements because he was receiving fees substantially higher than the normal rate in Reno cases.

Exhibit E, the commercialized contract for the adoption of a child drawn by Reno attorney Dale Murphy along with Mrs. Edgar, apart from reflecting a lack of social sensitivity to the delicate human relationship problem involved in child adoption, has another critical defect. The consent to adoption on the last page of the exhibit represents the child was born out of wedlock. The inference of the agreement for adoption and the consent to adoption signed by Ruth Helene Jenkins Matt is that she is an unwed mother. Not only was Ruth Matt married at the time of the signing of the consent but she was married simultaneously to two different persons. Rather than being an unwed mother, she was a doubly wed mother. The facts are as follows:

The natural mother Ruth Matt was married on October 3rd, 1949, at Papillion, Nebraska. She was divorced from Otis Joseph Matt on September 2nd, 1955, in Virginia City many months after the birth of her child. On January 16, 1952, apparently in a drunken stupor, she married one Godfrey V. Wolfe, Jr., in Reno and was divorced from him in Reno on November 4th, 1955. The unscrambling of her bizarre and complex marital status, from the viewpoint of adoption, apparently, was streamlined by having her simply pass herself off as unmarried in the consent to adoption. Once again, either out of carelessness or lack of real understanding of the social significance of accurately determining the legal availability of a child for adoption, a document was prepared by a Nevada lawyer in such a manner as to make the adoption voidable.

Because of the multiplicity of consents given to the California courts from Nevada of this type the California authorities pointblank decline to accept Nevada adoption consents without further intensive investigation.

It is difficult to criticize Mrs. Edgar's conduct of operating a substantial interstate adoption agency since her actions have received the support and assistance of Reno attorneys of status -- Attorneys Dale Murphy, Leonard Howard and former District Attorney Jack Streeter. Without their support and participation Mrs. Edgar would not have continued her interstate child placing. In fact, in recent years Mrs. Edgar has tended more and more to act as a contact between Dr. Mullis, Dr. Mohler and out-of-state adoptive couples. Actually, she has become sort of a buffer and intermediary for the child placing activities of these doctors and lawyers. Attorney Leonard Howard more recently has been active with Mrs. Edgar. Blame belongs, if blame is due, to professionally trained persons who prepare documents such as Exhibit E, not on a middle-aged housewife who was encouraged in her activities by highly responsible members of the community.

LOS ANGELES BABY RING

"Baby racketeering" and the "black market" in babies are journalists' words concocted by journalists and are not susceptible of accurate meaning. However, the following definition is suggested:

The baby black market exists when the sole condition for the selection of a prospective adoptive home is the ability of the adoptive couple to pay a stated sum of money. The black market exists when factors unrelated to the welfare of the child dominate the selection of the prospective adoptive home, commonly commercial considerations. If the basis for selecting an adoptive home is one cent, or ten thousand dollars, the social damage is just as great because a factor not associated with the well being or future happiness of the child has been controlling in determining where the child will live for life. In this sense a definite and firm black market in babies exists between Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

A well-organized ring of lawyers, doctors and avaricious housewives are operating a million-dollar a year interstate baby-selling racket in Los Angeles County. Most of the members of this ring are under indictment in Los Angeles as well as New York. Two members of the ring have already been convicted in New York -- Beverly Hills pediatrician Dr. Aaron Lax and Beverly Hills physician Dr. Harold Imerman. This ring was headed up by Ralph Benson, a Los Angeles attorney, who is awaiting trial on baby-selling charges, having just been convicted of defrauding west coast insurance companies in a negligence racket. Benson received a six month prison sentence in the fraud case.

The Los Angeles ring recruited unmarried mothers by means of newspaper advertisements and by means of direct solicitations with kickback offers to west and east coast doctors and attorneys. Dr. Aaron Lax, a pediatrician, who established this ring boasted to an undercover investigator that he had over 80 doctors and attorneys in the country feeding him adoptive couples and unmarried mothers. Beverly Hills attorney Anthony Carsola boasted to another undercover investigator that Beverly Hills was the nerve center of the baby business, nationally, and that he had a setup similar to the underground used to transfer the slaves north in the pre-Civil War days. The ring charged adoptive couples who came from all over the United States, as well as Mexico, amounts varying from twelve hundred to ten thousand dollars per child. Benson employed a staff of secretaries, some of whom devoted

their time throughout the day in calling on the telephone prospective adoptive couples asking them if they wished to adopt a child. Other secretaries were busily engaged in calling Los Angeles obstetricians asking them if they knew of any unmarried mothers who wished to place their children for adoption.

Investigator Miltler, posing as Mr. Korman, prospective adoptive father, visited Benson and was informed immediately the price for a baby to go to New York was six to seven thousand dollars, the cost would be less in Los Angeles -- three or four thousand -- and if Mr. Korman wished to take his chance and didn't care about the background of the child the cost would drop as low as fifteen hundred dollars. Benson even instructed his clients on how to commit perjury during the adoption proceedings and was indicted on the charge of subornation of perjury in connection with adoption matters.

Benson and Lax and Jordan Wank, another Beverly Hills attorney under indictment, ambitiously decided to invade the Las Vegas area in quest of babies; however, the pioneers in this activity from the Los Angeles area were Noah and Julius Borah, Los Angeles attorneys, who had one of the largest child placing businesses in California. They established contact with Dr. Ralph LaCanna who referred several cases to them. These children were placed through the Borahs in Los Angeles. The charges were in the neighborhood of two thousand dollars. About two and a half years ago Benson made contact with Las Vegas attorney Robert Cohen who agreed to let Benson know of the availability of Las Vegas babies for adoption. Benson would select the adoptive couples, Cohen and LaCanna would handle the arrangements with the natural mother.

These cases were carefully investigated, many of the natural and adoptive parents were interviewed. The amounts paid by the Los Angeles couples varied from \$1100.00 to \$3925.00. (See Exhibit I and Exhibit J. With reference to Exhibit J, the \$1,000.00 check was given to Wank in Las Vegas. Note: The adoptive couple objected to being charged for nightclubbing in Las Vegas.)

The Los Angeles couple, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Salzman, who paid \$3925.00 stated that they called their child their little Cadillac because they felt it was the best gift they could buy for their home. Mrs. Salzman enthusiastically pleased her husband by saying, "He couldn't have bought me anything closer to my heart. It certainly was a good investment." Mr. Salzman in 1950 was arrested for sexual misconduct with children on a school playground in Los Angeles, eventually pleading guilty to a lesser charge of disturbing the peace. There is no present evidence that the Salzmanns are providing other than a good home for the child, but the evidence is overwhelming that they simply bought their baby at an excessive fee. Twelve cases falling into this pattern are identified. In each instance the modus operandi was the same. The adoptive couples were either on the list established by Benson, Dr. Aaron Lax, Jordan Wank, or the Borah brothers. In most of the cases the natural mothers had initially gone to Dr. LaCanna for prenatal care. LaCanna, if he learned that the mothers were interested in adoption, referred them on to attorney Robert Cohen who notified Benson of the case. Frequently during the prenatal period Benson, Lax or Wank would come to Las Vegas to make arrangements. On some occasions Dietta Hough, Benson's principal employee in the baby business, would come to Las Vegas and transport the child to Los Angeles. On one occasion Benson himself carried the child to Los Angeles in a valise. One irate adoptive couple, the DuBois, reported that they were billed by Dr. Lax and Wank for an extra \$150.00 which included an evening of cabaretting in Las Vegas.

Actual payments were made by adoptive couples who operated through the Los Angeles baby ring in Las Vegas, Jordan Wank receiving a thousand-dollar installment towards a baby in the lobby of the Sands Hotel in a recent case. (See Exhibit J). It is difficult to determine the division of funds in these cases. There is no evidence that Dr. LaCanna received more than three hundred fifty dollars in any case; the amount received by Robert Cohen is unknown, but there is strong evidence that he received between two hundred and five hundred dollars in these cases. This is not certain. However, Cohen did not secure the adoption decrees and his sole function in these matters was as a contact man with Benson. Benson retained between five hundred dollars and fifteen hundred dollars himself in the cases under analysis. Las Vegas is a branch office for the Los Angeles baby-selling ring. While the number of cases involved is limited, Nevada law has no weapon or tool to combat this activity since baby selling is not a crime in Nevada. Unless the Nevada law is strengthened southern Nevada could easily become a center for interstate baby selling.

In reality, the Los Angeles baby ring focused around Benson and Lax, who were masquerading or camouflaging their baby-selling activities under the cloak of operating as attorneys or physicians. Many attorneys and physicians have felt hostile to this investigation because they feel, by inference, it is an attack on what the majority of the profession normally does, assist persons in placement of children. They fail to see, probably because the facts are not sharply enough brought out, the gigantic difference between an occasional placement made by a doctor and a lawyer with persons living in his own community, persons that he has known professionally or socially over a period of time and the Benson operation. This distinction is graphically illustrated by the interview on June 2nd with Mrs. Gilbert Brooks, 1325 South New Hampshire Avenue, Los Angeles, who stated, "When I was a student at Los Angeles City Junior College a friend of mine suggested that I see Ralph Benson about a part-time job. Benson hired me and told me to pretend that my name was Betty Baker. He gave me a prepared sort of script of what I was to say over the telephone to doctors whose names were contained on a list, the list contained well over a hundred names. I sat in Benson's office all day ringing the doctors up telling them, 'This is attorney Ralph Benson's office. Would you know of any adoptive parents interested in a little baby that is about to be born?' I would describe pleasantly the natural parents. If the doctor said, 'Is the baby born yet?' I said, 'The baby is due shortly.' If he was interested and gave me the name of the couple that wanted a child I would pass this on to Benson. I read what I had to say from a piece of paper given to me by Benson. Then I would go to work and call up adoptive parents, people who had gotten a child already through Benson and tell them the same story, that we had a child available, would they be interested in a second child. If they were interested I would refer their name to Benson. We had about six girls due most of the time every month. Two, and sometimes three of us worked on these lists. We would contact the adoptive parents once a month and the doctors less frequently."

This, in effect, is not a law office with an occasional adoption case, this is a boiler room in babies. Instead of a battery of telephones manned by glib con men calling prospective customers from the Loft Building in Montreal, Benson had a batch of telephones and a group of young girls promoting baby sales in his office.

INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN BETWEEN LAS VEGAS AND UTAH

A large outlet of children being placed for adoption privately from Las Vegas is the State of Utah. The ties between the Mormon community in Las Vegas and the State of Utah are close. A simple scheme was devised to effect these arrangements. Utah couples living principally in Salt Lake City, Provo and St. George were advised

by friends and, frequently, Mrs. Hughes of St. George, Mrs. Grant Wright of Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City attorney Richard Byrd and Las Vegas attorney Rulon Earl to place advertisements in the Las Vegas Review-Journal indicating they wished children for adoption. The addresses were listed in a rather devious manner to protect the identity of the adoptive couple and also, possibly, to shield the fact that arrangements were actually being made through a Salt Lake City or Las Vegas attorney. Whoever answered the ads, either by phone or by letter, would normally be put in contact with a friend, relative or the actual person who wanted the child. Often the address read as if a specified couple desired the child, whereas, in reality, the ad was being placed indirectly through an attorney who had a group of people who wanted a child. After the natural mother answered the ad she would eventually be interviewed by a representative of the couples who wished to adopt, frequently in Las Vegas this representative turned out to be Rulon Earl. Eventually arrangements would be made for some of the prenatal expenses to be paid and the child, after birth, would be taken to Utah and adopted.

It developed that Rulon Earl acted as Las Vegas attorney in a vast majority of these cases. In some instances he merely secured the consent as a commissioner of the Utah courts. In other cases he played an active role in arranging the placement.

Mrs. Elmer Hughes of St. George, as well as Mrs. Grant Wright of Salt Lake City, apparently derived no profit as acting as intermediary and, perhaps, were concerned with bringing children into Mormon homes. Both of them acted in the same fashion as Mrs. Jean Edgar of Sparks, Nevada, only on a much more limited basis. Once again, the key figures in making these arrangements were Utah couples through the use of advertisements, now outlawed with Las Vegas and Salt Lake City attorneys. The fees involved were nominal, the adoptive couples rarely paying over a thousand dollars. There is no evidence that Rulon Earl charged large fees in these matters. However, there is evidence that his role in making the arrangements was much larger than he desired to let the community know. This activity was on an extensive plane but cannot be characterized as a baby black market operation. It is simply a means or device that was used, somewhat devious, to place on an independent scale a large number of Nevada children in Utah.

In one instance one Larry Phelps placed in the Las Vegas Review-Journal an advertisement stating that he wished to place his child for adoption. A police investigator, and his wife, impersonating an adoptive couple went to see Phelps who asked \$6000.00 for his child. Exhibit G is Phelps criminal record. Also included is the transcript of the tape of the police investigator's interview with Phelps (See Exhibit H).

In the absence of any Nevada law against baby selling Phelps could not be successfully prosecuted, although he was arrested, his case was dismissed.

The advertisements have been outlawed. Ironically, the social conditions that the advertisements lead to, baby selling, is still legal in this State.

The following situations are given here in summary and cover a miscellaneous group of subjects touched on during the investigation:

There is evidence that natural mothers are impersonating adoptive parents

when entering hospitals to give birth to circumvent formal adoption proceedings. One Donna Scott, a massage parlor operator with a criminal record for moral offenses, secured four children on referrals and through newspaper advertisements. Aware that she could not receive a formal adoption decree because of her undesirable background (see Exhibit C) Donna Scott decided to commit a fraud and make it appear that she had given natural birth to the four children who actually were born to unwed mothers. Donna Scott had had a hysterectomy and was unable to give birth herself. She was assisted in this project by Dr. Cazan, Dr. James French and attorney Norman Cornwall. Dr. Cazan admitted knowledge that Donna Scott was committing a fraud and pretending that she had given birth to one of the children herself. Dr. French denies culpable knowledge, although he signed two of the fraudulent birth certificates himself. An examination of the medical charts at his hospital indicates that, in any application of common sense on his part, he would have quickly established the fraud. It is likely that he was aware of Donna Scott's intent since she came to his office, according to her statement with a second girl posing as Donna Scott. Documents reviewed in attorney Norman Cornwall's office specifically consent to adoption plus Cornwall's statements indicate that Cornwall, in all likelihood, was aware of the fraud, without realizing the dangerous social implications of what was transpiring. A document found in Donna Scott's possession shows that the formal agreement was made with one of the natural mothers to pass herself off as Donna Scott (See Exhibit B; also see Exhibit B-1 for some of the fraudulent certificates of live birth.)

CASE OF MRS. A. D. MCKENNA

Mrs. A. D. McKenna, 515 Desert Lane, Las Vegas, operated a licensed foster home for children. She no longer has the license because of her brutality with children. Her situation is worthy of mention because it clearly shows that, in the clinics, the existing Nevada law frequently does not protect children in adoptive situations.

Mrs. McKenna obviously is a psychopathic person. Witnesses have testified that she placed hot peppers in the rectums of children under her care, forced their faces into feces, beat the children and even schooled them in shoplifting. The police have photographs of the bruised bodies of the children who were under Mrs. McKenna's care. While, possibly, some of the charges may have been exaggerated since the McKenna matter became a cause celebre there is no doubt that Mrs. McKenna is unfit and unsuitable to care for children. She certainly is prone to hysteria and the evidence is overwhelming that she has engaged in acts of cruelty with children in her care. Over five years ago she petitioned the Las Vegas Court to adopt a child. Some of these facts were brought to the attention of the Court and the petition for adoption was withdrawn. Now six years later the same child remains in the care of Mrs. McKenna.

What protective value does the home study have if, in such an extreme case where the child's well-being is threatened, after six years the child still remains in the same household? Assuming even now that the child is removed, the passage of time has inflicted immeasurable damage. Maria, the child under discussion, was allegedly groomed and performed, according to Mrs. McKenna, as a ballet dancer in the Tropicana nightclub at the age of three. Obviously, existing adoption laws have no teeth in them to meet an emergency of this nature.

WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Nevada State Welfare Department has ultimate responsibility for protective services in the adoption field. The Department's program for assisting unmarried mothers is outstanding and is one of the most progressive in the country. An unmarried mother wishing to place her child for adoption is able to get liberal assistance towards her medical and hospital bills from the Department and is referred for shelter care to some of the high quality maternity shelters in California. The principles the Department supports are the finest, its ideals are the highest. Some of the staff are highly trained and qualified. Tragically, the gap between word and deed is gigantic in the Department's adoption program. Functionally, child placing is controlled, dominated and carried out, essentially, by the members of the Nevada Bar. The Welfare workers, out of insecurity, poor community relationship and lack of status have abrogated their function in protecting human beings in the adoption field to the lawyers -- not in speech, but in deed. The largest adoption agency in the State of Nevada is the Nevada Bar. Actually, the State Welfare's adoption program is an extremely limited and small one, an overwhelming percentage of child placements are arranged through doctors and lawyers in the State.

In Washoe County area the State Department makes few home studies in private adoptions. At least, the Department is not required to sanction and ratify placements over which they have absolutely no control. In Clark County the Department makes alleged home studies in private adoptions. These studies are nothing but farces and actually offer little protection for the natural mother, child or adoptive couple. These token home studies carried out in the most superficial manner inflict immeasurable damage. They create the impression in the eyes of the community that the privately arranged adoptions have been cleared, thoroughly investigated and checked out by the Welfare Department. This is true only in the manual and perhaps some of the public assertions made by members of the Department. The home studies actually are pathetic, they consist of little more than a very superficial verification of some of the statistical data about the adoptive couple. Normally, no determined effort is made to contact the natural mother. Consequently, the Court report contains little if any, accurate information as to the legal availability of the child. The worker does not even know whether the mother exists or not, what the circumstances of the adoption were, whether she really was married or not married. It is a travesty upon the child welfare profession to create the impression or image in the community's eyes that a child is legally available for adoption when the social worker making the home study has not even seen the natural mother. In a high percentage of the cases already checked into it has developed that the legal status of the mother was other than that represented in the consent presented to the Court. This the social worker is dutybound to find out by making a very determined effort to locate the natural mother and find out completely about her marital status. Exhibit K is typical of natural mother Dorothy Costello presented in the consent as unmarried. The facts develop that she was married.

Social workers claim that they have made an effort recently to contact the natural mothers. This scarcely seems true because natural mother Margie Garette was easily contacted by investigators, she has been a long-time resident of Las Vegas, her address has always been known. She said she, herself, was surprised that no social worker contacted her after she placed her child for adoption locally. Clearly, up to recently, for many years no real effort was made even to interview the natural mothers in private cases. Undoubtedly, the Department can produce many individual cases where they have spoken with the mother; how-

ever, during the course of the investigation none of the mothers interviewed who placed their children locally in private adoption had seen a social worker. Not only does the report omit the kind of careful study of the legal availability of the child, but, as a matter of settled policy, nothing is said about the circumstances under which the arrangement for adoption has been made.

One of the State workers interviewed in Las Vegas said that, originally she used to put in the circumstances of the placement in her report and she was told to omit it because, apparently, some of the Judges got mad when the reports stated that certain doctors and lawyers had made the arrangements. Therefore, the reports are completely silent on how arrangements were made and would throw absolutely no light on the existence of a baby racket. It must be emphasized again that the community, and everyone interviewed said, "Well, if there was something wrong, if somebody was making a racket of it, wouldn't it all show up in the social work study?" Obviously, the social work study could show nothing since the workers were directed to omit any reference to any material that would show up irregularities. Normally, in most other States, the worker making the home study has in his possession the consent for adoption. Las Vegas State workers informed investigators that very often they had a difficult time even seeing the consents. Often they went to lawyers' offices and were permitted to take a look at the consents. In other States the home study is not even completed or presented to the Court until the worker has in his possession the consent. The acquiescence of the Welfare Department in this attitude and the lack of understanding of the protective services supposed to be given by the Welfare Department by certain members of the Bar creates a very pernicious, dangerous situation. Apparently the selected members of the Bar who are hesitant to turn over the consents, and even reluctant on occasions to show them to the workers, feel that the social work profession is intruding on the rights of lawyers to place children and control the entire child placing process.

Investigators were shocked to discover that the home studies do not even contain complete data regarding the birth of the child. The home study should, at least, contain a birth certificate. Under present procedure the study material contains a verification of the birth of the child without even indicating, frequently, the hospital at which the child was born. A birth certificate gives invaluable information, not only about the present birth under consideration, but also data about the natural mother's background, how many children she had previously and certain statements about her physical condition that are useful. In short, the present home study is nothing but an empty shell which creates within the conscience of the community a false sense of security. In effect, all is well, the Department has checked everything -- in truth, the home study tells nothing, often not even containing the real identity or address or whereabouts of the natural mother and disclosing nothing of the circumstances of the placement.

It is common knowledge that casino employees frequently have previous arrest or criminal records. This does not mean that they are unqualified to adopt -- it does mean, especially in Las Vegas, a simple telephone call should be made to the police or the Sheriff's department to find out about the applicant's criminal record. This is not insulting but, frankly, gambling casinos tend to, frequently, attract those who have had conflict with the law. This procedure is never followed. A brief check was made of the dozen cases, both agency and private, in which casino personnel had adopted. It was discovered that in most cases the casino employee had an arrest record and, in several instances, the arrests and convictions warranted some consideration in a social work home study. It is hard to see what objection there can be when only a phone call is necessary to find

out about the criminal background of petitioners for adoption.

How is this relevant to report about irregularities in private adoptions? Extremely relevant because the community, the Judges and the Bar feel that the home studies in some way are a control over abuses. The kind of home studies that are made in Clark County only tend to perpetuate existing irregularities. If there is an abuse, or impropriety in arranging an adoption in Clark County it will not be discovered by the kind of home studies being made. Yet, the adoption will go through, the home study undoubtedly will approve the placement and the community will feel, well, nothing is wrong here.

To illustrate, if X is engaged in the baby selling business in Las Vegas he can rely on the fact that the home study will not disclose his baby selling activities to the Court because the study is not geared in that direction. He can rely on the fact that the study will approve the arrangements he made. He can then boast that his actions were approved by the Court and the Welfare Department. Thus, he has the advantage of having his act sanctified by persons who have no knowledge of his exact procedure.

It was noted that on occasions unmarried mothers were interviewed in an open arena in the Welfare Office. The words of the workers and the mothers could be heard for a distance of ten or fifteen yards away. The mothers were compelled to sit at a desk in the presence of a large number of other workers. This may not always be the case, but when this happens to a sensitive, unmarried mother they are very likely to feel that the State Welfare Department does not respect their feelings or their position and turn to a private arrangement. Another force driving unmarried mothers away from the Welfare Department's services is the unfortunate lack of information possessed by the County Welfare Department about the program for unmarried mothers offered by the State Welfare Department. A visit made by an informant, Grace McKinsey, to the County Welfare illustrates the kind of treatment afforded these girls in the County Welfare. (See report of Grace McKinsey, page 6 of this transcript.)

In effect, informant, posing as an unmarried mother, was informed that she best go back to her home community. She was given no information about the very good program that the State Welfare provides for unmarried mothers. In fact, she was told that probably she would have to have several years residence in Nevada before the State would even help her. What is the purpose of an outstanding program for unmarried mothers if a brother agency, the first normal point of impact in the community, conceals this program from a girl in desperate need of help?

It was further noted that no central file is maintained in this State, in Carson City, Welfare headquarters, identifying natural and adoptive parents. The only central file is a statistical one without the identity by name of the individual or the human beings involved. Thus, it was necessary often to scour the whole State to find out whether a child had been placed for adoption in Nevada or out of Nevada. In fact, under existing procedures it is almost impossible to determine the whereabouts of children placed for adoption in certain instances. The record-keeping system of the Department is so decentralized that it is hard to get a coherent, clear picture of really what is happening within the State in the adoption field. This is reinforced by the fact that in some of the counties in the Lake Tahoe area the Judges have, until recently, flatly refused to perform their obligation of submitting petitions to the local Welfare Office so that the Department in these cases does not even know about

the pending adoptions.

This winter, for some undisclosed reason, the central adoption committee of the Department did not meet from October up to the time of the writing of this report. It is necessary for the central committee to meet before placements are made by the State. According to Welfare representatives in Las Vegas many children were being held in foster care for months during the winter when they could have been in approved homes who were waiting for these children if the committee had met. This condition was well known by applicants for adoption in the State and caused considerable bitterness. This situation only reinforces the position of those who are unsympathetic to social agencies gaining greater control over adoptions.

The Welfare Department has a fine potential if it ever assumes its responsibility of really protecting children with strength and determination. At present, in the adoption field the Department has surrendered its real function to the Bar, either out of insecurity or fear.

LOST CHILDREN

Many Nevada children are literally lost or swallowed up somewhere in the American community. This is due to the release procedure which is standard in the State of children being placed for adoption from hospitals. To illustrate, the names of attorneys and doctors appear as the persons to whom children are released for adoption. This frequently conceals the identity of who actually received the child. The natural mothers, in most instances in Nevada, sign the releases in blank. To illustrate, Exhibit L is a release in a case arranged by Rulon Earl through the Las Vegas Hospital. Mr. Earl, when questioned by investigators as to the identity of the persons to whom the children went said that that was a confidential communication. Thus, a blanket of darkness is literally thrown around the whereabouts of these children. This is a totally incorrect situation. The names of the adoptive couple should appear on the hospital release form. Attorneys are not supposed to carry children out of hospitals. In one instance the name of the former District Attorney of Washoe County appeared on the release form under his position of District Attorney as having carried the child out of a Reno hospital.

In an effort to trace the whereabouts of these children investigators went to Utah and there Utah attorneys, in turn, refused to reveal the identity of the natural parents in cases of children that had come from Nevada, even to their own Welfare authorities. Release procedures are in a chaotic condition in Nevada.

At the Las Vegas Hospital in Las Vegas the records were kept in such a way that it was impossible to know who had carried the children from the hospital. At the Sunrise Hospital all releases were signed in blank. A policy has been adopted at the Southern Memorial Hospital of having the natural mother carry the child out of the hospital. This is barbaric in instances where she does not want to see her own child and is compelled, as a convenience, to physically carry the child out and place the child in the arms of the adoptive couple. Apparently this cruel procedure was sanctioned by the Welfare authorities in Las Vegas and should be stopped. One mother said she had nightmares for months after being compelled, against her will, to carry her child out of the hospital.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

\$685.75

Las Vegas, Nevada, March 7, 1959

For value received undersigned agrees to pay in lawful money of the United States to Las Vegas Clinic and Hospital, at 201 North Eighth St., Las Vegas, Nevada the sum of Six hundred eighty-five dollars and seventy-five cents (685.75 within thirty (30) days from date hereof, subject to approval of Los Angeles pediatricians' approval of baby boy Jackson being medically adoptable and execution of consent to adoption by natural parents of said child in Los Angeles.

/s/ Virginia E. Jackson
VIRGINIA E. JACKSON

/s/ Ralph R. Benson, Attorney
RALPH R. BENSON, ATTORNEY
FOR ADOPTING PARENTS

RALPH R. BENSON
Attorney at Law

1021 Chester Williams Building
215 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles 13, California
MAdison 6-6285

April 17, 1959

Las Vegas Hospital and Clinic
Las Vegas, Nevada

Re: Vivian Jackson and Baby

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith is Cashier's Check in the sum of \$685.75 in payment to you, in full, and to cover hospitalization and doctor bill and doctor's fee in this matter.

Thank you very much for waiting in this matter.

/s/ Ralph R. Benson
Ralph R. Benson

By:

/s/ Howard A. Kaplan
Howard A. Kaplan

Rec'd 4/22/59

HAK:mg
Enc

EXHIBIT A, continued

C O P Y

RALPH R. BENSON
Attorney at Law

1021 Chester Williams Building
215 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles, 13, California
MAdlson 6-6285

February 27, 1959

Grant Lund, M.D.
Las Vegas Hospital
201 North Eighth Street
Las Vegas, Nevada

Re: Baby Boy Jackson Adoption

Dear Dr. Lund:

As I explained yesterday on the telephone to your nurse, Atty. Robert Cohen wanted me to talk to you.

I would appreciate if you would let me know by letter, or by telephone call collect:

1. How much did the baby weigh at birth?
2. How much longer is the baby to stay at the hospital before he can leave by airplane?
3. Why was the baby premature?
4. Are there any congenital anomalies?
5. Is the baby getting iron and vitamins?

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ralph R. Benson
Ralph R. Benson

RRB/bb

Atty. Rob't Cohen - DU 4-6484

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

I _____, being of sound mind and full possession of my senses, without promise of payment (other than Doctor and Hospital bills incurred from my pregnancy), without force or duress or persuasion, being the decision of my own choice and my own free will do hereby give to Dr. Donna A. Scott and Lloyd M. Scott full and entire parental rights to the child or children that shall be delivered as a result of this pregnancy which should be delivered approximately on the _____ day of _____ 1957. As soon as possible upon delivery I shall place in their care custody and possession any child or children born of this pregnancy.

I shall use the name of Donna A. Scott as my own in my visits to the Dr. of my choice in Las Vegas, Nevada and in the hospital and shall give such information for reasons of the birth certificate as shall coincide with any information were Donna Scott the natural parent.

It is understood that Dr. Scott will pay my Doctor and Hospital bill in connection with this agreement.

I furthermore understand that Mr. and Dr. Scott will raise the child or children as if it or they were their own natural children and will love and protect and care and provide for them in such a way that they might become good citizens before God and men.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 1957

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FBI # 3523891

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or received	Charge	Disposition
PD, Houston, Texas	Donna Rudd #Spl. #1454	5-3-38	Sol & Hold for clinic	rel.
PD, Ft. Worth, Texas	Lorraine Tidwell #EX36037	5-22-38	Inv.	rel
PD, Okla. City, Okla	Dinah Lorraine Foust #26937	6-17-38	Vag. by Prost.	fined 11. & rel. to the clinic
PD, El Paso, Texas	Roberta D. Beutell #20-28194	9-25-39	Vag & clinic	10-10-39 dism. on \$200 floater
SO, El Paso, Texas	Roberta Beutell #12097	9-26-39	Vag & clinic	10-4-39 rel
USM, El Paso, Texas	Roberta Dominguez #6076	10-7-39	Imm laws	
Commandant, 11th Naval District	Donna Audene Rudd #NB66/Qm(100)	cutter 10-7-42		
CS, Comm., Wash DC	Mrs. Donna L Rudd, Residence: 815 Car- guiney Way, Martinez, Calif; Born: 8-27-20	F.P 2-22-43 Benicia Arsenal, Calif.	Position: Chauffeur- mechanic, war-ordnance, Benicia Arsenal, Calif.	
SOS, War Dept.	Donna Audene Lyngard #109-KAS-3	pickup driver 3-19-43		
Commandant, 125th Naval District	Donna Audene Rudd #NY9-PT	Pass & badge 4-15-43		
SOS, War Dept.	Johanna Rudd Miller #109-WPP	welder trainee 9-16-43		
Rwy. Express Agency Inc., Wash., D.C.	Johanna Audene Miller #119685	Extra express hendler 10-23-43		
CS Comm., Wash DC	Donn A. Rudd Residence: 435 Nep- tune Ave., P.O. Box 951, Wilmington, Cal. Born: 8-27-20	F.P. 2-28-44 Wilmington- ton, Calif.	Position: truck driver, motor pool Wilmington, Calif	

EXHIBIT C, continued

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or received	Charge	Disposition
SO, Los Angeles, Calif.	Donna Audene Rudd #A-42609	6-20-44	susp. kidnap	6-26-44 rel bon. 12-12-44 6 mos.
PD, NYC, NY	Donna Audene Rudd #8228304	11-5-44	Fugitive #53 (Warrant)	11-22-44 rel to SO, Copeland, La.
PD, Miami, Fla.	Dristine Anderson Miller, #21593	Chaufeur's license 10-29-45		
PD, Miami Beach, Fla.	Kristine Anderson Miller #C96904	Jitney driver (F.P. 10-29-45)		
USNAA-I	Donna Audene Rudd #----- Address given as: Navy 214, FPO, NY, NY	7-21-49	Civilian Personnel Office Port Lyautey French Morocco	
SO Jersey City	Donna Audene Rudd #35289	1-27-50	Viol Vet depend act	pending
USM Newark NJ	Donna Audene Johanna Moller #804a	1-27-50	Viol serv. depend Act 1942	In default of \$2000 bail comm to Hud Co JI JC
USM, Newark, N.J.	Donna Audene Rudd #804-a	not given	Viol serv- Icemen's Dep act etc	sent 2-17-50 1 yr in jail, susp. pld on 2 yrs prob act. Sent Imp, rest \$750
PD Ogden Utah (prt retd-encl)	Donna A. Miller #10804	Taxi driver license 6-7-50		
PD No. Las Vegas, Nev.	Donna Audene Scott MF 2192	1-30-59	Viol foster homes act	

Cont of Del. of minor. As Donna Rudd, if appre prior to 2-17-52 notify US Prob Off Camden NJ per Inf rec therefrom 3-6-50

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

1. PLACE OF BIRTH, STATE OF NEVADA A. COUNTY <u>Clark</u>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER (If born elsewhere last) A. STATE <u>Nevada</u> B. COUNTY <u>Clark</u>	
B. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <u>Las Vegas</u>		C. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <u>Las Vegas</u>	
D. STREET ADDRESS <u>1931-7-5th</u>		E. STREET ADDRESS <u>1931-7-5th</u>	
F. IS PLACE OF BIRTH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		G. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
H. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
3. NAME (Last, first, middle) <u>Donald Kenneth Scott</u>			
4. SEX Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>		5. DATE (Month, Day, Year) <u>Oct. 2, 1958</u>	
6. SINGLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TWIN <input type="checkbox"/> TRIPLET <input type="checkbox"/>		7. IF TWIN OR TRIPLET, WAS CHILD BORN <input type="checkbox"/> 1ST <input type="checkbox"/> 2ND <input type="checkbox"/> 3RD <input type="checkbox"/>	
8. NAME (Last, first, middle) <u>Cloyd Melvin Scott</u>		9. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	
10. AGE (Last, first, middle) <u>49 YEARS</u>		11. USUAL OCCUPATION <u>Boiler Mkr.</u>	
12. MAIDEN NAME (Last, first, middle) <u>Donna Audine</u>		13. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	
14. AGE (Last, first, middle) <u>38 YEARS</u>		15. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) <u>Indiana</u>	
16. PREVIOUS DELIVERIES TO MOTHER (Do NOT include this birth) a. How many OTHER children are now living? <u>one</u> b. How many OTHER children were born alive but are now dead? <u>none</u> c. How many OTHER children were stillborn (born dead or APT lost after pregnancy)? <u>none</u>			
17. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE <u>Donna Audine Scott</u>			
18. MOTHER'S MAILING ADDRESS <u>1931-7-5th</u>			
19. I hereby certify that this child was born alive on the date stated above.		20. SIGNATURE <u>E.C. Harris MD</u>	
21. ADDRESS <u>74 E. 112-E-Kangas</u>		22. ATTENDANT AT BIRTH M.D. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D.O. <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
23. DATE REC'D. BY LOCAL REG. <u>10-3-58</u>		24. DATE ON WHICH GIVEN NAME ADDED <u>Oct. 2, 58</u>	

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record which is on file in the office of the Division of Vital Statistics of the Nevada State Department of Health at Carson City, Nevada.

DATE ISSUED: May 15, 1961

John P. Sullivan

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

1. PLACE OF BIRTH, STATE OF NEVADA A. COUNTY <u>Clark</u>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER (If born elsewhere last) A. STATE <u>Nevada</u> B. COUNTY <u>Clark</u>	
B. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <u>Blue Diamond</u>		C. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <u>Blue Diamond</u>	
D. STREET ADDRESS <u>None</u>		E. STREET ADDRESS <u>None</u>	
3. CHILD'S NAME (Last, first, middle) a. (First) <u>David</u> b. (Middle) <u>Lincoln</u> c. (Last) <u>Scott</u>		4. DATE (Month, Day, Year) <u>March 2, 1954</u>	
5. SEX Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>		6. SINGLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TWIN <input type="checkbox"/> TRIPLET <input type="checkbox"/>	
7. IF TWIN OR TRIPLET, WAS CHILD BORN <input type="checkbox"/> 1ST <input type="checkbox"/> 2ND <input type="checkbox"/> 3RD <input type="checkbox"/>			
FATHER OF CHILD			
8. FULL NAME (Last, first, middle) <u>David</u>		9. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	
10. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) <u>Kansas</u>		11. USUAL OCCUPATION <u>Boiler Mkr.</u>	
12. AGE (Last, first, middle) <u>34 YEARS</u>		13. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY <u>Mining</u>	
MOTHER OF CHILD			
14. FULL MAIDEN NAME (Last, first, middle) <u>Donna</u>		15. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	
16. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) <u>Indiana</u>		17. CHILDREN PREVIOUSLY BORN TO THIS MOTHER (Do NOT include this birth) a. How many OTHER children are now living? <u>0</u> b. How many OTHER children were born alive but are now dead? <u>0</u> c. How many children were stillborn (born dead or APT lost after pregnancy)? <u>0</u>	
18. AGE (Last, first, middle) <u>31 YEARS</u>			
19. INFORMANT <u>Father: Donna Scott</u>			
20. SIGNATURE <u>John W. Keegan MD.</u>		21. ATTENDANT AT BIRTH M.D. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D.O. <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
22. ADDRESS <u>Boothby City, Nevada</u>		23. DATE SIGNED <u>March 12, 1954</u>	
24. DATE REC'D. BY LOCAL REG. <u>3-12-54</u>		25. DATE ON WHICH GIVEN NAME ADDED <u>BY</u>	

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record which is on file in the office of the Division of Vital Statistics of the Nevada State Department of Health at Carson City, Nevada.

DATE ISSUED: May 15, 1961

John P. Sullivan

REGISTRAR'S NO.

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

BIRTH
NO. 127

1. PLACE OF BIRTH STATE OF NEVADA A. COUNTY <i>Clark</i>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER A. STATE <i>Nevada</i> B. COUNTY <i>Clark</i>	
3. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <i>Henderson</i>		C. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <i>North Las Vegas</i>	
C. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION <i>Care de Line</i>		D. STREET ADDRESS <i>1931 N. 5th</i>	
D. IS PLACE OF BIRTH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		E. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
F. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
3. NAME (First) (Middle) (Last) <i>Donna Dorene Scott</i>			
4. SEX (Type) <i>Female</i>			
5. IF TWIN OR TRIPLET, WAS CHILD BORN 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/>			
6. DATE (Month) (Day) (Year) <i>July 1 - 58</i>			
7. NAME (First) (Middle) (Last) <i>Clark M. Scott</i>			
8. COLOR OR RACE <i>W</i>			
9. AGE (At time of this birth) <i>49</i> YEARS		10. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) <i>Kansas</i>	
11. USUAL OCCUPATION <i>Sliding Engineer</i>		12. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY <i>Food Mead Base</i>	
13. MAIDEN NAME (First) (Middle) (Last) <i>Dorene Dorene Scott</i>		14. COLOR OR RACE <i>W</i>	
15. AGE (At time of this birth) <i>38</i> YEARS		16. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) <i>Illinois</i>	
17. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE <i>James B. Scott</i>		18. PREVIOUS DELIVERIES TO MOTHER (Do NOT include this birth) a. How many OTHER children were born? <i>0</i> b. How many OTHER children were born dead at ANY time after conception? <i>0</i>	
19. MOTHER'S MAILING ADDRESS <i>1931 N. 5th St. North Las Vegas Nevada</i>		20. ATTENDANT AT BIRTH M.D. <input type="checkbox"/> O.D. <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>	
21. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG. <i>7-1-58</i>		22. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE <i>James B. Scott</i>	
23. DATE ON WHICH GIVEN NAME ADDED BY (Registrar)			
FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH USE ONLY (This section MUST be filled out)			
24. LENGTH OF PREGNANCY COMPLETED <i>40</i> WEEKS	25. WEIGHT AT BIRTH <i>7 lbs 1 oz</i>	26. LEGITIMATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27. WAS REQUIRED SEROLOGICAL TEST MADE? <i>4</i> AT WHAT PERIOD OF GESTATION? <i>20</i>
28. STATE ANY COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY AND LABOR <i>none</i>	29. STATE ANY OPERATION FOR DELIVERY <i>none</i>	30. DESCRIBE ANY BIRTH INJURY <i>none</i>	
31. DESCRIBE ANY CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS <i>none</i>	32. WAS PROPHYLACTIC DRUG USED IN BABY'S EYES? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	33. STATE DRUG <i>Saline Solution</i>	

V-6-100M USE NEVADA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS 301

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

Salt Lake City, Utah
December 26, 1960

Dr. S. L. Hardy
Las Vegas Hospital and Clinic
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Dr. Hardy,

Regarding our telephone conversation the other day, I want to thank you again for your time and your kindness toward these people I have referred to you.

I spoke to you about a girl who may call upon you. I have written to her to ask her to see you and tell you about her problem. She is the one who has already seen Mr. Earl, rather she talked to him on the telephone. (Mrs. Watson)

She has expressed her willingness to go into a home and work for her room and board. I am hoping that you may know of someone there who needs this help and would be agreeable to helping her. I feel confident that some way can work out for her, and will gladly do all I can. Whether she gives up her baby or not, I feel the desire to try to help her. So I ask your forgiveness if I am too presumptuous.

Thank you again for considering these women here, I can assure you of their worthiness, and I sincerely hope their desires may be granted through your help. It has been a thrilling satisfaction to me to see the results of my efforts put children into good Latter-Day Saint homes where I know they will be brought up with every advantage a good L.D.S. home has to offer.

I extend my sincere good wishes to you, and hope to have the pleasure of making your acquaintance in person in the future.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Vida W. Wright

Mrs. Vida W. Wright
2664 Hillside Dr.

EXHIBIT D, continued

Salt Lake City, Utah
December 19, 1960

Dr. S. L. Hardy
Las Vegas Hospital and Clinic
201 North 8th Street
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Dr. Hardy,

Well, we finally made it!! Friday morning we received a lead through the ad that we had run in the Personal Column of the Review Journal, expressing our desire to find a baby for adoption. The lead came from Upland, California, where a mother had given birth to a baby girl and was considering adopting it out. My husband and I left by car immediately, after securing the necessary legal papers, and found the mother ready and willing to sign her child over to us. We are very very happy about this arrangement and are so grateful for our little girl, whom we hope to adopt within a year.

Immediately upon our return home with our precious "load" I called some friends whom we knew to be interested in adopting a baby and gave them the information pertaining to Mrs. Marilyn Poor as I stated in my letter to you on December 14th. This Mrs. Dunlop and her husband we know to be most faithful and active LDS people who could give the child all the advantages any baby could ever ask for, in addition to bringing it up in the Church. We do so appreciate your interest in this case, and especially your offering to contact Marilyn Poor. This is really wonderful and we want to thank you for doing this for the Dunlops.

We have enjoyed meeting you personally last summer and felt so good about your taking care of Marilyn Poor whose baby we were hoping for. We would like to tell you how much the Dunlops appreciate your doing this same thing for them now, that we have been fortunate enough to get a baby already.

Thank you again for your interest and your concern, and wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, we are,

Sincerely,

/s/ Yvonne McBride
Don and Yvonne McBride

215 Douglas Street
Salt Lake City 2, Utah

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

H. DALE MURPHY
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR
AT LAW
RENO, NEVADA

AGREEMENT FOR ADOPTION

THIS AGREEMENT, made this 7th day of April, 1955, by and between RUTH HELENE JENKINS MATT, of the City of Sparks, County of Washoe, State of Nevada, hereinafter referred to as Party of the First Party, and MRS. WILLIAM EDGAR, of the City of Sparks, County of Washoe, State of Nevada, as agent and attorney-in-fact for certain undisclosed principals, as Party of the Second Part.

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, said undisclosed principals, acting by and through their agent and attorney-in-fact, Mrs. William Edgar, are desirous of adopting, pursuant to the provisions of law, a minor child and to raise and treat said minor child as their own lawful child and heir, and

WHEREAS, RUTH HELENE JENKINS MATT, the natural mother of a child to be born, hereby approves and consent that said child shall be so adopted, and

WHEREAS, PARTY OF THE SECOND PART, for and on behalf of her undisclosed principals, agrees with Party of the First Part to pay all expenses incident to the birth of said child, specifically including hospital and medical expenses and a sum to represent board and room, being the sum of Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$37.00) per week, through the birth of said child on or about the 12th day of May, 1955, and for four (4) weeks after the birth of the anticipated child,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants herein expressed,

IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Party of the Second Part, on behalf of the undisclosed principals, shall provide suitable and adequate medical care and hospital accommodations for Party of the First Part and assume all financial obligations incurred thereby and by reason of the birth of the illegitimate child to be born to said Party of the First Part only.
2. For and in consideration of the covenants and promises of Party of the Second Part, RUTH HELENE JENKINS MATT, Party of the First Part, covenants and agrees with Party of the Second Part to release and relinquish all her rights in and to said minor child and agrees to the adoption of said minor child by said undisclosed persons and agrees further to execute any and all documents necessary to the accomplishment of said adoption as required by law.

/s/ RUTH HELENE JENKINS MATT
Party of the First Part

EXHIBIT E, continued

/s/ MRS. WILLIAM EDGAR

MRS. WILLIAM EDGAR, as Agent
and Attorney-in-fact for certain
undisclosed persons, Party of the
Second Part.

STATE OF NEVADA)

ss.

COUNTY OF WASHOE)

On this 9th day of April, 1955, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, RUTH HELENE JENKINS MATT, known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, who acknowledged to me that she executed the same freely and voluntarily and for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year in this Certificate first above written.

/s/ LYNN QUILL

Notary Public in and for the county
of Washoe, State of Nevada
My Comm. Expires: Feb. 7, 1957

No. 159274

Dep't. No. 3

SIDNEY FOX

Attorney for Plaintiff

In the Second Judicial District Court of the State of
Nevada, in and for the County of Washoe

RUTH WOLFE,

Plaintiff

GODFREY WOLFE, Jr.

Defendant

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF
LAW AND VERDICT OF JURY.

THIS CAUSE CAME ON REGULARLY TO BE HEARD BY THE COURT. The Plaintiff appeared by her Attorney, SIDNEY FOX, and she also appeared in person. The Defendant entered his appearance by virtue of the filing of a written Appearance and Waiver duly subscribed and acknowledged before a Notary Public, and thereupon the Court duly entered the default of the Defendant for failure to appear and answer, or otherwise plead in the form and in the manner provided by law.

The Court having heard the testimony presented by the Plaintiff in support of her Complaint and the allegations thereof, and the same having been submitted, and the Court having duly considered the law and the evidence, and having found that all of the allegations of Plaintiff's Complaint are true and proved, and having concluded therefrom as matters of law that the Plaintiff for a greater period than the time required by the Laws of the State of Nevada for the filing and maintenance of this action, has been and is an actual, bona fide

EXHIBIT E (Continued)

resident of the State of Nevada and domiciled within said State, and that the Court has jurisdiction to hear and to determine this action, and that Plaintiff is entitled to the relief hereinafter granted;

NOW, THEREFORE, in conformity with said Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and by reason of the proof and the premises,

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiff, RUTH WOLFE be, and she hereby is granted a final and absolute DECREE OF DIVORCE from Defendant, GODFREY WOLFE, and that the bonds of matrimony now and heretofore existing between said Plaintiff and Defendant be, and the same hereby are forever dissolved, and the parties are each of them restored to the status of single persons;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiff, RUTH WOLFE, be and she hereby is awarded sole custody and control of the minor child of the Parties, to-wit: JOHN LAUREN WOLFE.

DONE IN OPEN COURT THIS 5th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1955.

A. J. Maestretti
DISTRICT JUDGE

STATE OF NEVADA, } ss.
COUNTY OF WASHOE.

I, H. K. BROWN, County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, in and for Washoe County, said court being a court of record, having a common law jurisdiction, and a clerk and a seal, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the original, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF

LAW AND DECREE OF DIVORCE RUTH WOLFE, Plaintiff,

Case No. 159,274 vs.

GODFREY WOLFE, Jr., Defendant.

which now remains on file and of record in my office at Reno, in said County.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my

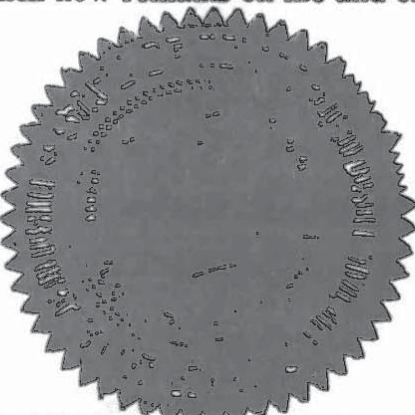
hand and affixed the seal of said court, at Reno,

this 6th day of

June, A. D. 19 61.

H. K. BROWN, Clerk.

By *A. J. Maestretti* Deputy.



No. 17433.

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF
NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STOREY

---oOo---

W. C. McCluskey
Attorney for Plaintiff

RUTH HELENE MATT,

Plaintiff

-vs-

OTIS JOSEPH MATT,

Defendant

F I L E D

SEP 2- 1955

Ursula MacHenry, Clerk

By _____, Deputy

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
AND DECREE

This cause came on regularly this day for trial before the Court, sitting without a jury, the plaintiff appearing in person and by her attorney, W. C. McCluskey, Esq., and defendant having filed his answer herein and appearing by his attorney, Robert E. Berry, Esq., and appearing not in person.

After hearing the allegations and proofs of the plaintiff, and all the records and files in this case being admitted in evidence and being fully advised in the premises, the Court finds as follows:

I

AS FINDINGS OF FACT, the Court finds that all of the allegations of the plaintiff in her complaint are true, and that the plaintiff is an actual and bona fide resident of the County of Washoe, State of Nevada, and has resided therein for more than six weeks prior to the commencement of this action, and at the time of the commencement of this action she was, and now is a bona fide resident of the said County and State; and as

II.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, that RUTH HELENEMATT, the plaintiff herein, is entitled to a decree of this Court dissolving the bonds of matrimony now and heretofore existing between the said plaintiff and the defendant, OTIS JOSEPH MATT, on the ground that the plaintiff and defendant have lived separate and apart, without cohabitation, for a period of time more than three consecutive years last past.

DECREE

WHEREFORE, by reason of the law and the findings aforesaid,

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the bonds of matrimony now and heretofore existing between the plaintiff, RUTH HELENEMATT, and the defendant, OTIS JOSEPH MATT, be, and the same are wholly dissolved, and the said parties be, and each of them is, hereby restored to all of the rights and privileges of single and unmarried persons to the same extent and for all the purposes as if said marriage had never existed.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this 2nd day of Sept., 1955.

STATE OF NEVADA
County of Storey

ss.

Gordon W. Rice.

District Judge

I, Ursula MacHenry, County Clerk of Storey County, State of Nevada, and ex-officio Clerk of the District Court of the First Judicial District of said State and County, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of the original.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
AND DECREE

In the matter Entitled:

RUTH HELENE MATT, Plaintiff -vs-

OTIS JOSEPH MATT, Defendant

on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said District Court this 7th day of June 1961, A. D. 1961

URSULA MacHENRY

Clerk.

By Sherley Anderson, Deputy Clerk.

AUTHORIZATION TO HOSPITAL FOR RELEASE OF CHILD

1 I, Lois J. Eldredge, now of Washoe, County, Nevada,
 2 the natural mother of Baby/ boy or girl Girl born the 16 day of Aug. 19 56
 3 at St., Mary's Hospital, Reno, Nevada and said Baby
 4 now presently boarding in the NURSERY at ST. MARYS HOSPITAL, RENO, NEVADA, do
 5 hereby state that prior to being discharged from St. Marys Hospital, Reno, Nev.
 6 I have signed and acknowledged a Consent to the Adoption of said Baby Girl
 7 by the adoptive parents named in said Consent to Adoption.

8
 9 I, Lois J. Eldredge, therefore please request St.
 10 Marys Hospital, Reno, Nevada, to release Baby Girl
 11 to said party or parties named in the Consent to Adoption, or their authorized
 12 representative State Welfare Reno, Nevada,

13 Josephine Reese, R.N.
 14 Witness

15 Lois J. Eldredge
 16 (The above to be signed before mother leaves the hospital. Then when the baby)

17 (is to be released the Consent to Adoption signed by the mother is presented)
 18 (and whoever the authorized agent of the mother is, should sign the following:)
 19 (Signatures on the Consent to Adoption and this Authorization should compare.)

19 I acknowledge that Baby A Girl has been released to me, by St.
 20 Marys Hospital on this 19 day of Aug. 19 56 . AM 5:15 PM.

21 Josephine Reese
 22 Witness

23 Vernon K. Deeshaen
 24 (Signature)
 25

Mrs. Wm. B. Edgar - 5-2571

Mrs. Edgar arranged this placement privately with a Fresno couple. The natural mother was led to believe that the placement was being made through the State Welfare Department. The hospital release tends to corroborate the fact that false representations were made to the natural mother since the hospital release indicates that the child was being released to a representative of the State Welfare Department. Above on this very page is a photostat of writing appearing on the back of the release which bears the name of Mrs. William B. Edgar and her phone number in Reno. Mrs. Edgar often attempted to affiliate herself as closely as possible with the Welfare authorities.

April 17, 1961
AFFIDAVIT

75

Loris Eldredge duly sworn,
 swear and says:

That Dr. Thomas Mullis
 of Reno, Nevada, told me that
 the State Welfare was
 arranging for the adoption
 of my baby that was born
 on August 16, 1956, at
 St. Mary's Hospital, Reno, Nev.
 Up to the present time I
 was under the impression
 that all arrangements were made
 through the Welfare Department,
 relying on Dr. Mullis
 statement.

I went one day to the
 Carson City Court House about
 a month after birth of my
 child and signed some papers
 before one of the clerks.

I do not know, nor have
 I heard of, Jean Edgar.

All my expenses were paid
 for that is, the Dr. and hospital
 bills.

Dated: this 17th day of April, 1961.

Loris Eldredge

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS

17th

day of

April, A.D. 1961

Marion W. de Pater

Notary Public

In and for the City and County of San Francisco, State of California

My Commission Expires April 24, 1961

EXHIBIT G

C O P Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FBI # 1 663 385

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or received	Charge	Disposition
SO Laramie Wyo	Lonzo Phelps	1-6-35	mur 2nd deg	acquittal by jury
PD Cheyenne Wyo	Larry Wright #5741	7-28-36	Inv & vag	\$25 F
PD Denver Colo	Larry L. Wright #18993	2-11-37	Inv.	2-13-37 rel
SRef Buena Vista Colo	Larry Wright #9612	11-29-38	L	Indeterminate 6-11-39 par- oled by Gov- ernor
SO Cheyenne Wyo	Larry Wright #10872	9-22-39	G. L. money	10-15-39 rel complainant refused to prosecute
SO Reeding Calif	Larry Wright #8272	12-18-39	dls. peace	30 das
PD San Fran Calif	Larry L. Phelps #88335	11-3-47	susp Sec 245 Penal Code	11-5-47 \$20 or 5 das 30 das prob on chg Sec 242 PC
SO Martines Calif	Larry L. Phelps #40459	2-2-48	415 PC	
PD Cheyenne Wyo	Larry L. Phelps #5608	1-29-49	drk & dls-	\$50 bond forf
PD Portland Oreg	Larry L. Phelps #27366	10-16-49	DC and hold DA	10-17-49 30 das susp.
PD Los Angeles Calif	Larry Lon Phelps #4066 W 16	3-2-50	drk	
PD San Pablo Calif	Larry L. Phelps #1813	11-25-50	drk in & about an auto	\$50 bail forf

EXHIBIT G, continued

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or received	Charge	Disposition
CSC-A	Larry L. Phelps #12 51 48030	12-12-50		
PD Sacramento Calif	Larry L. Phelps	2-25-41	viol ord 630-4th Ser & Battery	630 \$25 F 5 das City J1 Battery \$50 F or 20 das Co Jail 2-28-51
PD Reno Nevada (prt-ret encl)	Larry L. Phelps #24123			
PD Reno Nev	Larry L. Phelps #24123	5-24-54	drk & res- isting an off	\$10 or 10 das on drk chg \$25 or 25 das on chg of resist- ing an off
PD Las Vegas Nev	Larry L. Phelps #M-16098	10-18-54	drk	\$2 or 1 da 10-19-54
SO Las Vegas Nev	Larry Phelps #13059	11-16-55	pub nuisance	
SO Las Vegas Nev	Larry Phelps #13059	4-26-56	threatening to commit an offense against the person of another	
PD Las Vegas Nev	Larry L. Phelps #M-16098	6-17-56	Inv AWDW	6-22-56 rel to Justice Court
PD Las Vegas Nev	Larry L. Phelps #M-16098	6-17-56	DC	6-18-56 \$50 or 25 das
SO Las Vegas Nev	Larry L. Phelps #13059	6-22-56	AWDW	
PD Las Vegas Nev	Larry L. Phelps #M-16098	7-2-59	A & B	

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

This is to certify that the following is a transcript, to the best of our ability, of the tape recording made by Deputy Witte in Apt. "D" at 421 North 4th St., Las Vegas, Nevada, at the time. The persons involved in this conversation are Larry Phelps, Dorothy Phelps, Marilyn and William Witte, to be noted hereinafter by the capital letter of the first name of each subject. Portions of this transcript were not readable and were, therefore, omitted. The portions that were readable are verbatim.

Time: 1:09 p.m., 11-15-55:

W. Don't be nervous, honey.

M. Okey.

(Sound of knocking)

W. How do you do. Are you Mr. Phelps?

L: Yes.

W. I am Mr. Witte, and this is my wife, Marilyn. We were told to contact you by your attorney in regards to the adoption of the baby.

D. Hello.

W. How do you do. Are you Mrs. Phelps?

D. That is right.

W. Well, I was ---

M. Oh, we are just in time for breakfast.

D. We work and don't get to eat till late.

W. Oh, you do? (pause) Oh, the baby has been born?

L. You didn't know that?

W. No, we didn't. A boy?

D. Yes, seven days.

W. How old?

D. Seven days.

W. Seven days. Look at the head of hair on him, will you.

M. Isn't he pretty?

L. Have a chair.

W. Sure enough - We never had a child.

M. And I am just crazy about them!

L. When we started this deal - oh, I guess it's been about two or three months ago, I wanted the child to have something I never had - a good education.

W. Well, we can provide that I am pretty sure.

L. A stable couple.

W. Uh huh.

L. I have several people who are interested in the child - now I am about to change my mind.

W. Well, it is a privilege naturally.

L. I'll tell you truthfully, with a lot of people it was a question of money at one time for the baby.

W. Uh huh.

L. All the people that answered the ad were not too well set up.

W. Sure, that is right.

L. Now, if I wanted anything I have always had to - I have always had to pay for what I got.

W. Uh huh - well, fortunately, for young persons, we're pretty solvent. We own a small bar with another guy.

L. What is the name of your attorney?

W. Bill Singleton he is.

L. He handled the case for Mrs. Haycock, didn't he?

W. I don't know - he just is our bar attorney and as a result, he knew that we were looking for a baby. He told us, he gave us the instructions and told us "If you don't have to give the name, fine, but if you do, go ahead."

L. I know Mr. Singleton, he was Mrs. Haycock's attorney on the adoption proceedings.

W. Well, I don't even know them. - - -

L. Well, they are people from Bakersfield. Mr. Singleton had these people - Mrs. Haycock saw notice of it in the paper here, so the reason I met Mr. Singleton is through - he represented them as a client. . . (unreadable). . . wire in Bakersfield, and she wrote me a couple of letters here in which she

has a 600 acre farm -- it was a money deal and she was going to pay all expenses and so forth -- and when you come right down to it, well, I guess she changed her mind.

W. Uh huh.

L. He was supposed to bring her up again this evening. Well, I never heard about it, so I -- actually, the baby was born a week ago today.

W. Uh huh.

M. How much did it weigh?

L. Six pounds, eight ounces.

W. Um -- that's good.

L. And it's a boy.

W. Well, we can offer him a good home -- there's no kidding about that. Fortunately, we have made it all right. We're not loaded, but we do manage to keep a bank.

L. You said you owned a bar.

W. Yeah.

L. Here in town?

W. Half of it -- I'm a partner with another man, Frank Rist. It's a camera bar -- Bond Road between Paradise Road and 95 South. You've probably seen it. It's in front of the trailer court.

L. I've been by it.

W. Uh huh. Now, what is the scoop on the adoption proceedings? What must we do -- what would be required of us from you people? We would like to know that.

L. As I said a few minutes ago, we had talked back and forth, and I -- then what I wanted was for them to take the baby from the hospital.

W. Uh huh.

L. That is to take the baby right from the hospital. This way, you know, it is a harder procedure to my wife, and also to myself -- to bring the baby home and start taking care of it.

W. Well, that's for sure.

L. Naturally we are more attached to it this way, and when I called Mrs. Haycock. . . Allison. . . Mr. Singleton can tell you that I wanted her to pick the baby up -- also another couple who were going to fly from Detroit and pick the baby up right from the hospital.

W. Well, are your bills all paid, or do you want them to be taken care of?

L. My bills are all paid -- I paid for them.

W. Well, then, what would be the necessary procedure?

L. The only procedure now would be the question of money -- for you as what I would classify as expenses.

W. All right -- Well, as long as it is only a condition of money, why it is up to you to name it. I mean, we don't know.

L. Well, it is an awkward position now we brought the boy home. It is a question of money but I don't think you'll pay the price.

W. You don't?

L. No.

W. Well, I'll tell you this, if I can get a guarantee that the adoption will be legal, and that I will have the child, you name it and I'll tell you right flat out whether or not I have it, how's that?

L. Well, it will cost you exactly six thousand.

W. Six thousand? We can about scrape that together.

L. Cash.

W. Cash on the line -- no check involved?

L. No. No check involved.

W. Ohey. . .

L. I can show you letters here -- I will show you letters, if you are really interested.

M. We are.

W. Well, as far as price is concerned, with people like us who just haven't had a baby -- we've tried and tried and tried and just can't make it.

(Not readable). . .

W. What is your first name?

L. Larry.

W. Larry Phelps?

L. I went to Mr. Cashman here, July 20th, and I gave him \$5100 cash for an Olds car. Everything I buy, I pay for it cash.

W. Uh huh -- Well, I understand, I don't believe in this credit business frankly.

L. I don't either -- I got friends here -- Now, here's another thing about attorneys -- I have been very fortunate with Mr. Singleton.

W. Now, all he does is take care of business things, and as a result, we don't get to contact him much because we don't have much of it.

L. Well, I mean, a long time ago we were going to let the baby go for four thousand.

W. Uh huh.

L. Now, in this particular case -- he handled this case for Mrs. Haycock -- now, here's a telegram that was sent by Mrs. Haycock from Bakersfield.

W. This is from where?

L. Bakersfield -- "Dorothy Phelps, Our attorney will contact you Wednesday morning."

W. That is today?

L. That's last week.

W. I see.

L. It doesn't seem like these people -- they aren't what you would call -- well -- wealthy people. The little boy -- I didn't know it was going to be a boy -- I wanted him to have an opportunity to have things --

M. I love little boys!

L. Everything I had to work for all my life --

W. Well, these people wanted you to list the Doctor bills.

L. I don't kind, which we did.

W. Uh huh.

L. Mr. Singleton's got the letters on the case.

W. Who has the letters on the case?

L. Well, he has -- after all, I have been here since '38, off and on.

W. Uh huh.

L. There seems to be some of these attorneys -- now, this Franklin, I guess he has made a racket out of babies.

W. I can't say -- I don't even know the man.

L. Now, this attorney, he charges \$75.00 to draw up adoption papers, and some attorneys here charge five hundred and some twelve hundred to draw up, fees for adopting babies. If I am going to give an attorney twelve hundred, I may as well keep the baby myself.

W. Now, how would you want this, you say six thousand, is that right?

L. That is right.

W. You want this, then, in cash, and then the adoption would strictly be legal.

L. You have your attorney draw up the papers.

W. Uh huh.

L. You have Mr. Singleton or any attorney that is in town here draw up any papers and I'll read them over.

W. Okeh -- good deal.

L. And we come to the price of six thousand and the baby is hours.

W. Okeh -- It will take me about two days to scrape it up, but by golly, I'll do it!

L. Good enough.

W. That is okey - I guess that is about all we need then to find out.

L. If I were you, I wouldn't tell Mr. Singleton anything about the money.

W. You don't need to worry about that. Well, naturally, I don't think it would be wise to tell anyone . . .

L. I went around town and I got a good job -- I make \$125 a week.

W. Where do you work?

L. I work at Market Town.

W. Oh, that's quite a going place, isn't it?

L. I have got letters here from people who aren't any better off than I am trying to adopt this child.

W. Uh huh.

L. I am not even buying a home -- I am paying rent on this apartment. I want this all handled so that --

W. He is a healthy child, is he not?

L. Oh yes, you can check with Dr. Hammill.

W. Has he been weaned yet?

L. Has he been what?

W. Weaned.

D. Yes.

W. You are not nursing him?

M. What kind of formula are you using?

D. Dextrose, evaporated milk and water.

W. Who is your Doctor so that we may as well go ahead with the same doctor.

L. Dr. Hammill.

W. I guess I don't even know the guy.

L. He has been here thirty some years -- excellent doctor.

W. Uh huh. Well, I guess I should go down and see the attorney.

L. In other words, it's just a question of the loot. However, we will take that much money, otherwise, I don't think we will go.

W. Yeah. Okey, glad to have met you, Mr. Phelps, glad to have met you, Mrs. Phelps.

L. You will let us know, for sure?

W. Oh yeah, we sure will. Let's see, today is Tuesday -- how about Thursday morning?

L. Thursday is fine.

W. What time do you get up?

L. Oh, I usually get up about 11.

W. About 11.

L. I work late at night.

W. Then sometime after 12 noon -- how's that?

L. On Thursday?

W. Yeah -- good enough -- thanks a million, good-bye now.

M. Goodbye.

D. Goodbye.

W. Goodbye, now.

- - - - -

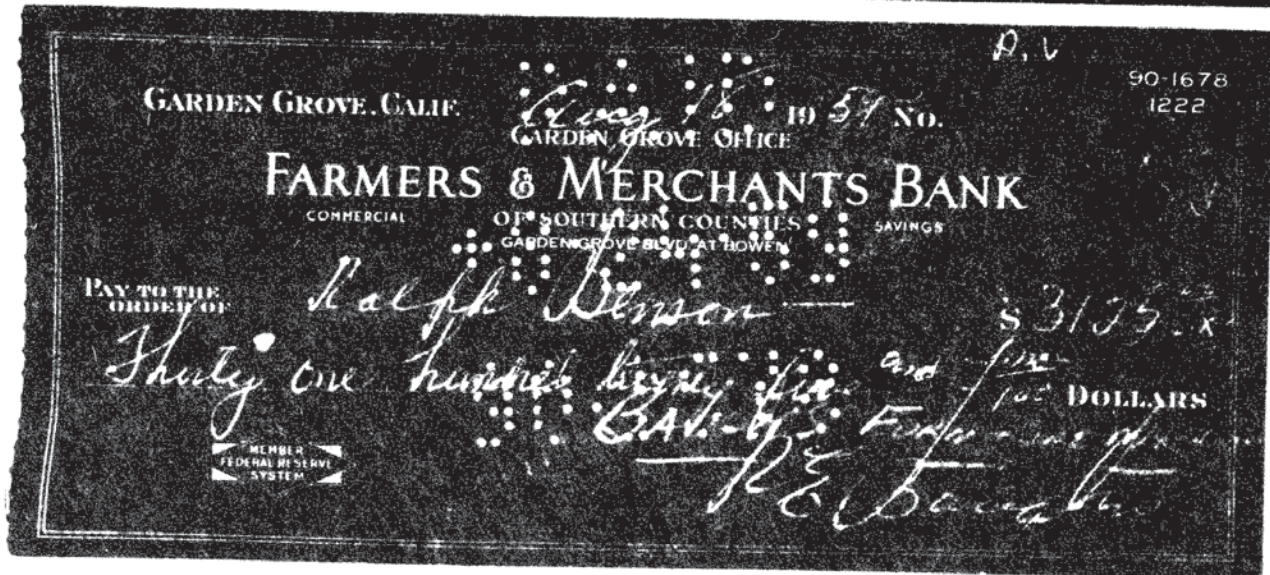
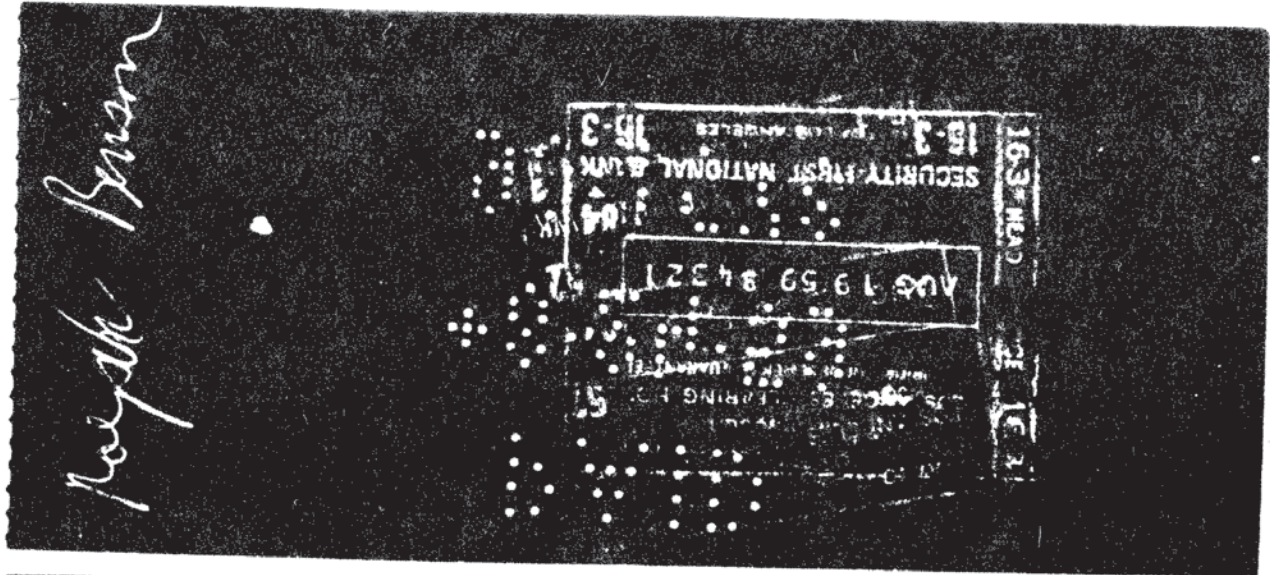
Time: 1:22 p.m. 11/15/55.

/s/William M. Witte
DEPUTY WILLIAM WITTE

/s/ Louise Cain
LOUISE CAIN

Adoptive father was arrested
on a Criminal charge ^{and the} involving
sexual misconduct with children.

He pled guilty to a reduced charge.



May 27, 1961

Mr. James Kolts
Deputy Assistant District Attorney
Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Kolts:

Enclosed is the requested photostat copy of the check that we made out to Jordan M. Wank. I hope that it will be of some use to you.

Also enclosed is a photostat copy of a letter received by us from Mr. Wank showing the breakdown of expenses for the adoption of our second little boy. The corrections on the far right of the letter were made after we discussed the breakdown with Mr. Wank in January, 1961. We felt that we did not have to pay for his good time and fun in Las Vegas as we went there for business not for pleasure.

We trust that any help given to you by us will not interfere with our adoption proceedings of Jeffrey which should be coming up in the next month.

We are glad to have been able to help you in this matter.

Investigator's note

Sincerely

Mrs. Ralph W. DuBois, Jr.

Mrs. Ralph W. DuBois, Jr.

The above check (#1251) was passed in the lobby of Sands Hotel, Las Vegas to indebted Los Angeles attorney Jordan Wank. Arrangements for placement of baby made through Mr. Joe Cannon, Las Vegas

MR. OR MRS. R. W. DU BOIS, JR.
1223 W. IVESBROOK STREET P. O. BOX 232
LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA

No 1251

November 25 1960 90-1571
1222

PAY TO THE ORDER OF *Jordan Bank Trust Account - \$1,000.00*

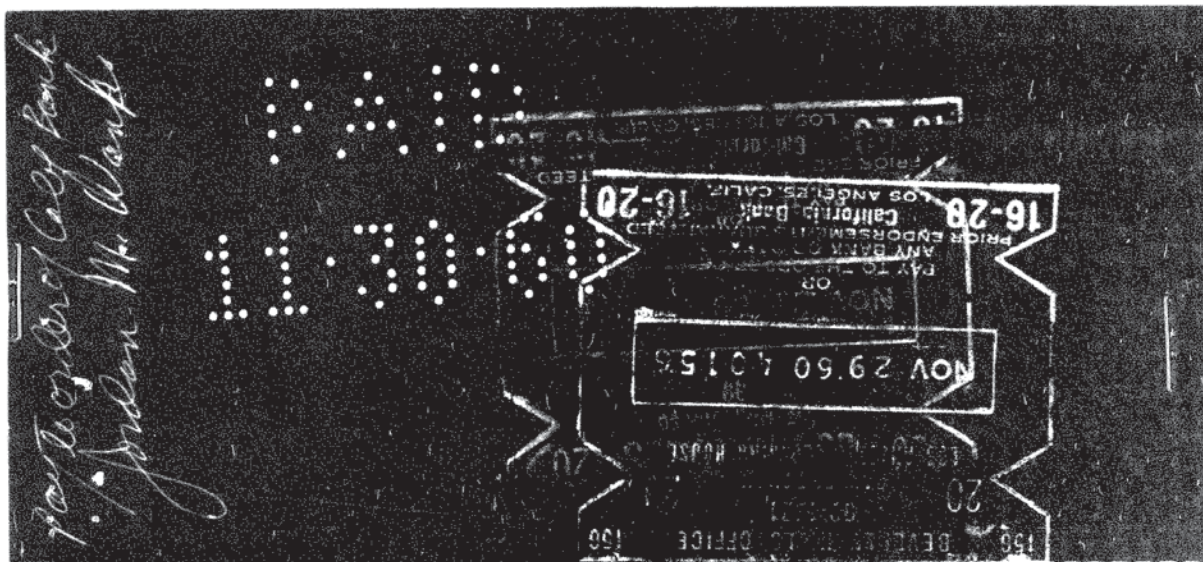
One Thousand and no/100 DOLLARS

LANCASTER OFFICE

California Bank
666 W. LANCASTER BLVD. LANCASTER, CALIF.

"NOT VALID AFTER 30 DAYS FROM DATE"

Mrs R. W. Du Bois Jr.



JORDAN M. WANK
ATTORNEY AT LAW
3223 SUNSET BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA
OLIVER 4-0444

December 12, 1968

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Du Bois, Jr.
1223 Ivesbrook Street
Lancaster, California

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Du Bois,

Re: Adoption of
Jeffrey Mark

I am sending you a detail breakdown of all of the expenditures incurred to date in the matter of the adoption of your child, Jeffrey.

The following is a detail accounting of such expenditures:

Attorneys fee	\$ 500.00	
Airplane travel expense	175.90	
Maintenance and support of natural mother	100.00	
O. B. (Dr. LaGanna)	300.00	
Auto rental in Las Vegas	14.08	
Cab fare for natural mother while in Los Angeles	10.00	
Meals while in Las Vegas	25.00	To be omitted
Long distance phone calls to Lancaster and Las Vegas (Approx.)	35.00	Reduced to \$10.00
Total	<u>\$1,159.98</u>	1,159.98
Amt. held in trust	<u>1,000.00</u>	1,000.00
Balance due	<u>\$ 159.98</u>	159.98
		Reduction 50.00

Hope all is well with you and the family. I will let you know as soon as I have the final Court date set for hearing in this matter. \$109.98 Due

Sincerely,

Jordan M. Wank
JORDAN M. WANK

JMW:js

No. 31,038

IN THE

SUPERIOR COURT

OF THE

State of California, in and for the
County of Santa CruzFiled in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the
State of California and for the County of Santa Cruz

January 28

1968

TOM M. KOLLET, Clerk

by Gene S. Deans

Deputy

CONSENT TO ADOPTION

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, DOROTHY L. COSTELLO, the undersigned, hereby
recite, state and consent as follows, to-wit:

That I am the natural mother of a baby girl born to me
on October 15, 1959, known as Costello Baby, at Washoe Medical
Center, Reno, Nevada; that the said child is illegitimate; that I
hereby expressly consent that the said minor child should be
adopted and shall be adopted by WILLIAM LEE GOLDMAN and PATRICIA
JEAN GOLDMAN, husband and wife, of 103 Buena Vista Drive, in
Watsonville, California, and that the said child will take the
family name of GOLDMAN, and thereafter be considered the lawful
child of WILLIAM LEE GOLDMAN and PATRICIA JEAN GOLDMAN, husband
and wife; that I do further hereby release and relinquish all of
my right and claim in and to said child in favor of said WILLIAM
LEE GOLDMAN and PATRICIA JEAN GOLDMAN.

I do further agree to, and do hereby, submit myself to
the jurisdiction of any Court of competent jurisdiction of the
United States having jurisdiction over adoption proceedings in and
to any and all proceedings which the said WILLIAM LEE GOLDMAN and
PATRICIA JEAN GOLDMAN shall, or may petition for the adoption of
said BABY COSTELLO, referred to herein.

I do further certify that I have read the foregoing
written CONSENT TO ADOPTION and I have freely and voluntarily
signed the same on this 19th day of October, 1959.

DOROTHY L. COSTELLO
Dorothy L. Costello

1 STATE OF NEVADA }
2 COUNTY OF WASHOE } ss.

3
4 On this 19th day of October A.D., one thousand nine
5 hundred and Fifty Nine personally appeared before me, _____
6 ATHALIE E. NEESHAM, a Notary Public in and for the said County of
7 WASHOE, DOROTHY L. COSTELLO

8 known to me to be the person described in and who
9 executed the foregoing instrument, who acknowledged
10 to me that she executed the same freely and
11 voluntarily and for the uses and purposes therein
12 mentioned.

(S E A L)

13
14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
15 hand and affixed my official seal at my office in
16 the County of WASHOE, the day and year in
17 this certificate first above written.

18
19 My Commission Expires Feb. 23, 1962 ATHALIE E. NEESHAM
20 Notary Public in and for the County of WASHOE,
21 State of Nevada.

22 STATE OF NEVADA }
23 COUNTY OF WASHOE } ss.

24 I, H. K. BROWN, County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk
25 of the Second Judicial District Court, in and for Washoe County,
26 State of Nevada, the same being a court of Record, do hereby certify
27 that ATHALIE E. NEESHAM, the person who subscribed the an-
28 nexed instrument, and before whom the same was taken, was at the
29 date thereof, and is now a NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County,
30 duly qualified and sworn and by virtue of his said office, he is
31 authorized to take acknowledgments and to administer oaths, and that
32 he is an officer authorized by the laws of the State of Nevada, to
take and certify the acknowledgment and proof of deeds to be rec-
orded in the state.

I do further certify that I am acquainted with the hand-
writing of the said ATHALIE E. NEESHAM, and verily believe
the name subscribed to and the said annexed instrument is his true

13
14
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16
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18

Danthy Costello was actually
a married woman - The
Consent to adoption reveals
this fact. For the document
was prepared by Attorney Est.
Morrisette, Reno, Nevada

EXHIBIT L

C O P Y

A U T H O R I Z A T I O N A N D R E A L E A S E

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That We, Robert and Lily Green, now of Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, father and mother of a minor boy child, born the 1st day of July, 1959, at the LAS VEGAS HOSPITAL in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, DO HEREBY state that we did on the 2nd day of July, 1959, at the LAS VEGAS HOSPITAL, County of Clark, State of Nevada, freely and without reservation execute a RELINQUISHMENT OF CHILD AND CONSENT TO ADOPTION in favor of and do hereby authorize said LAS VEGAS HOSPITAL to release said minor child to at such time as shall be authorized by the attending physician. We further, release, discharge and forever hold harmless said LAS VEGAS HOSPITAL from any and all claims, causes of action arising out of or in any way connected with the RELINQUISHMENT AND RELEASE.

We acknowledge that we have read or have had read to us this AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE and fully understand the same and the import thereof.

DATED at Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada this 2nd day of July, 1959.

Signed: /s/ Robert Lee Green

Signed: /s/ Lily Patricia Green

STATE OF NEVADA)
: SS
COUNTY OF CLARK)

on this 2nd day of July, 1959, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, Robert and Lily Green, known to me to be the persons described in and who executed the above and foregoing instrument and who duly acknowledged to me that he and she executed the same freely and voluntarily and for the used and purposes therein

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the official seal of my office. (Balance of notarization not decipherable.)

The following appears on the back of EXHIBIT L:

Investigator's note:

Arrangments made by Attorney Ruly Earl, Las Vegas

Marriage Certificate

397242

State of Nevada }
County of Washoe } ss.

This is to Certify that the undersigned Justice of the Peace,
in Virginia City Township - County of Storey did, on the

7th day of June A. D., 1954 join in lawful Wedlock

JOHNNIE C. HUFF of Reno

State of Nevada and VIRGINIA C. McDONALD

of Reno State of Nevada with their

mutual consent in the presence of Kate Tannehill and

Florence Ballou Edwards who were witnesses.

Kate Tannehill
Florence Ballou Edwards

Matilda E. Pollard

SEAL

Justice of the Peace

Recorded at the request of M. E. Pollard Filed Jun. 10, 1954

Delle B. Boyd

County Recorder.

State of Nevada }
County of Washoe } ss.

I, Delle B. Boyd, County Recorder in and for Washoe County, do

hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original record thereof as the same appears in my
 office, in vol. 237 of Marriages, page 300 and that the foregoing document is a full,
 true and correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of such original record.

WITNESS my hand and official seal hereunto set this 16 day of June, A. D., 1961

Delle B. Boyd
 County Recorder.

By McNamee Downing
 Deputy Recorder.



Consent to Adoption

1 State of Nevada) ss.
2 County of Washoe)

3
4 Virginia McDonald, being first duly sworn, deposes and
5 says:

6 I, Virginia McDonald, a single woman over the age of
7 eighteen years, residing in Reno, Washoe County, Nevada, am
8 the natural mother of a child born out of wedlock, to-wit, an
9 illegitimate baby boy born at Washoe Medical Center Hospital
10 at Reno, Nevada, on the 28th day of August, 1957.

11 I hereby irrevocably consent to the adoption of said
12 baby boy McDonald, by Arthur H. Berg
13 and Helen E. Berg, his wife, of Fresno, California.

14 I do hereby release and relinquish forever to said
15 adopting parents the custody of said baby boy, and all my
16 right, duties, obligations and benefits as a parent to said
17 baby boy.

18 In executing this affidavit, I am fully conscious and
19 I am not under the influence of drugs, sedatives or narcotics
20 of any kind. I fully understand that in executing this consent
21 I irrevocably give up all my rights of any nature and kind
22 whatever as a parent to said child, and I understand that
23 I cannot reclaim said child nor revoke this consent. I am
24 executing this consent freely and voluntarily without any
25 undue influence, duress, threat or pressure of any kind.

26 For more than thirty days prior to the birth of said
27 child it has been, and still is, my intention to place the
28 child with adoptive parents. I understand that upon said
29 adoption the adopting parents will, for all interests and
30 purposes, occupy the legal relation of parents to said child,

1 and that said child will be regarded and treated in all
2 respects as the child of said adopting parents.

3 I have carefully read this affidavit and consent, and
4 I have signed it as my free act and desire. I understand
5 the consequences of my act.
6

7 Dated: Sept. 3, 1957

8 Virginia McDonald
9

10
11 Subscribed and sworn to before me
12 this 3rd day of September 1957.

13 Lionel A. Masbaugh
14

15 Notary Public

16 My Commission Expires June 15, 1958
17
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No. 170529

Dept. No. 3

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

* * *
PETER ECHEVERRIA
Attorney for Plaintiff

VIRGINIA C. HUFF,

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

JOHNNIE C. HUFF,

Defendant.)

FILED

OCT 14 2 10 PM '37

H. H. BROWN, CLERK

By *A. Myers*FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
AND DECREE OF DIVORCE

THIS CAUSE came on regularly for trial this day before the above-entitled Court, the plaintiff appearing personally and by her attorney, PETER ECHEVERRIA, and the defendant duly entered his appearance by an Appearance and Waiver executed by him, whereby he consented to the setting of the cause for immediate trial, and whereby he waived notice of all further proceedings. Evidence was introduced and the case was submitted for decision. Thereupon the Court rendered its decision in favor of the plaintiff. The Court finds that all of the allegations of the Complaint are true and that defendant has waived notice of decision and service of Findings of Fact.

AS CONCLUSIONS OF LAW the Court finds that the plaintiff is entitled to an absolute and final decree of divorce from the defendant upon the ground of extreme cruelty.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT HEREBY IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, as follows:

1. That the plaintiff be, and she hereby is granted a decree of divorce dissolving the bonds of matrimony now and heretofore existing between herself and the said defendant and that she

each of said parties to the status of an unmarried person.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this 14th day of October, 1961

Gordon J. Rice
DISTRICT CLERK

STATE OF NEVADA, }
COUNTY OF WASHOE. }

I, H. K. BROWN, County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, in and for Washoe County, said court being a court of record, having a common law jurisdiction, and a clerk and a seal, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the original, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS

OF LAW AND DECREE OF DIVORCE

Case No. 170629

VIRGINIA C. HUFF

Plaintiff

-VS-

JOHNNIE C. HUFF

Defendant

which now ~~is~~ on file and of record in my office at Reno, in said County.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my

hand and affixed the seal of said court, at Reno,

this 16th day of

June A. D. 19 61

H. K. Brown, Clerk

By *J. Bragdon*

