

This was the technique used on us. When we signed we were effectively silenced. We could not deny that we had signed the paper. Many of us still parrot out the same platitudes the social worker used on us. Some of us still naively believe we had a choice, we did the right thing -- do you still believe you did? Think about it. I personally do not believe we had any choice -- the whole system was set up to rob us of our children and the methods used were unbelievably devious.

To further illustrate the point I am making about the power of questions and how they are used by professionals to direct the minds of the unsuspecting, I would like to acquaint you with the research of Mr Edward Mech, which was published in the *Child Welfare* magazine / Volume XV, Number 6 -- November/December, 1986. I also found this research proved unequivocally that young pregnant women **do not**, of their own volition, come up with an idea so unnatural as adoption unless it is artificially introduced by the use of subterfuge.

Mr Mech was very concerned that there were not enough young mothers giving up their babies for adoption. He believed a lot of the blame fell on the shoulders of the counsellors who were not introducing the option, so he came up with the idea that the most effective way of introducing the idea was via a series of questions. He asked young mothers a total of 8 questions and then ranked them in order by the expression of interest they received.

Here are some very notable excerpts from his extract; he quotes (Roget et al, 1980),

"An adolescent who becomes pregnant and carries her baby to term typically decides to keep the child. Usually no options, other than keeping are considered..."

Mech further goes on to admit that:

"...Accordingly, a normative option such as parenting one's own child is much closer to everyday experience and easier for adolescents to understand than is placing a child for adoption with a non-related family....." Mech goes on to say, *".....Too often, counsellors assume that, unless adolescents specifically ask about adoption no interest exists in considering adoption as an alternative....."*

So Edward V Mech devises his list of questions to communicate the adoption option (his term) to pregnant teenage mums. In the extract there is no alluding to the now well known psychological damage to mother and child at being separated for life. No, only a list of coercive questions to make the young mothers feel as we did that they are not entitled to their children and worse, that by keeping them, they are failing them. The question that ranked highest was:

"Would you consider an adoption plan if you thought your child would have a better chance in life with another family?" Third on the list was,

"Would you consider an adoption plan if you were sure the adopting parents would give your child love, security, and a good home?"