



AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS

UNITY - UNDERSTANDING - TRUST

The AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS consists of autonomous groups and individuals who wish to establish a network to effectively change the present structure in adoption. The First National Conference invites you to participate.

FRIDAY, MAY 4 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. REGISTRATION AT BELLEVUE HOTEL
15 E Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

- In the Banquet Room -
Booths will display state adoption laws, groups, search methods, relevant and referral information, and will sell books, literature, bumper stickers, buttons, t-shirts etc.

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. SOCIAL HOUR AT TIBER CREEK PUB - Bellevue Hotel

8:00 - 10:30 p.m. INTRODUCTION MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 5 9:00 - 12:00 a.m. WORKSHOPS: PERSONAL AND EMOTIONAL
Including surrender, right to privacy, political and historical aspects, alternative forms of adoption, intermediaries, search workshops, why adopt, post search.

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. LUNCH AT WORKSHOP SITE

1:30 - 5:00 p.m. WORKSHOPS: LEGAL, MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL
Including safeguards on family unity, involuntary surrender, constitutional issues, legal and professional accountability, genetic identity, medical standardization.

6:30 p.m. BANQUET

SUNDAY, MAY 6 9:00 - 12:00 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING: DISCUSSION OF AAC STRUCTURE
(Time for Church or sight seeing for those who so desire)

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. MEETING WITH PANEL ON MODEL ADOPTION LEGISLATION

5:00 p.m. SUMMARY OF 1979 AAC

8:00 p.m. MEETING ON GENEALOGY

MONDAY, MAY 7 HEW MODEL LEGISLATION PANEL reconvenes. Personal meetings should be scheduled with senators and representatives.

REGISTRATION: \$25.00 per person prior to April 20, 1979.

BELLEVUE HOTEL:	1 nite.....	\$18.22 double	\$12.35 quad room
	2 nites.....	\$36.44 double	\$24.70 quad room
	3 nites.....	\$54.66 double	\$37.05 quad room
	4 nites.....	\$72.88 double	\$49.40 quad room

BANQUET \$15.00 per person.....Meal tickets available.

Estimated total expenses including registration, banquet, meal tickets for all meals but excluding transportation is \$153.95 for double room, \$130.47 for a quad room. Transportation specials are being arranged by many regional organizations.

For registration forms and additional information contact:

AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS
Post Office Box 23641
L'Enfant Plaza Station
Washington, D.C. - 20024

(301) 762-3525



Editors Comments:

I was born, surrendered and adopted 31 years ago. I searched eight long, expensive years and found my birthparents four years ago. I have worked with hundreds of other adoptees during the eight years I've been involved in the adoption movement and I am only recently beginning to see clearly how subtly the negative presumptions control adoptees lives.

THOUGHT: How much of our lives are spent working both consciously and unconsciously at belonging and fitting in? When adoptees are reunited with their beginnings, their roots, a foundation develops and character and personality building really starts. From that point forward the adoptee has leverage and can stop compromising.

THOUGHT: This leverage frightens many adult parents because it eliminates the control, and manipulation they exercise over their 'childrens' lives.

QUESTION: How can there be pain or hurt involved in MEETING someone?

ANSWER: It is not the meeting. It is the expectation, fear of rejection or disappointment or unresolved pain that influences our adult perceptions. Birthparents may have difficulty separating 'meeting' from sublimated surrender emotions. Adoptees can connect 'meeting' to undefined severance emotions. Adoptive parents may be unable to separate parenting from infertility and bureaucracy approval frustrations.

THOUGHT: CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS!!!!!! We adoptees tend to try to please and keep peace. We work hard at being adopted. We want everyone to like us. We negate our own needs. Looking back on years of denial can be difficult, at the least. Adoptees "RIGHT TO KNOW" does not begin at eighteen or age or majority or emancipation. It is not part of normal childhood parental control or influence. It is not something gained through adolescents proving they can handle increased responsibility. It is not something where one must be mature to acquire. The "RIGHT TO KNOW" is an inalienable right. An adoptee has the "RIGHT TO KNOW" every day of his/her life.

We as adult and free adoptees must speak out for our minor sisters and brothers. We have a responsibility to fight for rights for ALL members of the triad. Many laws like the Arizona statute state that custody in part means "physical possession of the child". That is slavery. If we allow children to remain possessions while we fight for adoptees rights we do not do justice to the reform in adoption we so vocally seek.

THOUGHT: If the states continue to treat adoptees as less than equal citizens. If we are not grown-up enough, responsible enough, mature enough simply because we are adoptees to judge for ourselves whether or not we wish to know our birth families. If we are forbidden from seeing our birth records. If the state continues to act as our guardian against our will. Then the state should begin to support us like it does all other wards of the state. I would love to get a check each month from the state that forbids me full fledged citizenship!

THOUGHT: We have worked within the system. We have been nice, polite and kind. Have we gotten far enough? We should make note of the systems unwillingness to have court confrontations for these would set precedence and guidelines for open records and triad members rights. It seems time for agencies, state departments, courts and their employees to be held fully accountable for their participation and actions in adoption. It seems time to take our grievances into the courts and get compensation for such unnecessary pain and humiliation.

SEE YOU IN DISNEYLAND..AND GOD BLESS

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MJR

