

## Adoption Procedure Not 'Red Tape' But Careful Approach To Decision

The Smiths have a new baby boy at their house. Mr. Smith is handing out cigars at the plant and telling everyone he can persuade to listen, what a wonderful son he has. At home, the new mother is proudly receiving the congratulations and good wishes of friends and relatives.

The reactions of the new parents are typical; the circumstances of the baby's arrival at their home are different. Baby Bobby has been placed with the Smiths for adoption by the Catholic Family Center.

Some of the facts about adoption at the agency can be learned by listening to the answers given by the Smiths. These are some of the questions asked them by interested friends and relatives:

"Did you have to wait long?"  
— "Was there a lot of red tape?"  
— "Did the social worker come to your house and look under your beds?"  
— "You have to own your own house or have a lot of money, don't you?"  
— "Can his own parents take him away from you?"

**Question Answered**  
"We really didn't have to wait as long as we thought. It was about a year after the first

interview that we got Bobby. Actually, it was only three months longer than if we had our own."

"As far as red tape goes, we did have to undergo a study. The agency did have to know what we were like and what kind of a child we wanted before they knew whether they would have the right child for us."

"The study consisted of discussions of our religious practices, our health, finances, housing, personal and family social histories. We didn't have to own our own house or have a lot of money."

"We had to have enough room in our house for a baby and be secure enough financially so that Bobby wouldn't be a burden."

"And the social worker didn't look under the beds — I think she was too busy looking into our hearts to see how we would love a child."

"We are not worried about anyone wanting to take Bobby away from us because his own family had surrendered all claims to him before he was placed. We think we can give Bobby the love he needs so that he himself will love us

and want to stay with us even though he will know he is adopted."

### Preparations Made

A brief look behind the happy scene previous to the time of placement will reveal some of the preparations that made placement of Bobby possible. There was the commendable work of the foster parents in whose home Bobby lived before he went to the Smith home. It was their affection and attention that helped Bobby to be the happy, normal baby he was at the time of placement.

The pediatrician who visited Bobby in the foster home monthly and when needed, deserves credit. At the agency, one of the social workers had seen the mother (or mother and father) to obtain the factual background information that would enable the right home to be picked for Bobby.

More important, she had helped the parent make a practical plan for him. In a manner that was neither condemning nor condoning, the social worker helped the mother understand the circumstances that led to the birth of the child; to face the realism that along with the rights of parenthood

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there were definite responsibilities.

When the child was finally released for adoption, it was done willingly and with true love that places the welfare and

happiness of another above personal desires.

There was the satisfying knowledge that somewhere a couple like the Smiths would give this baby the complete family life that is his right.

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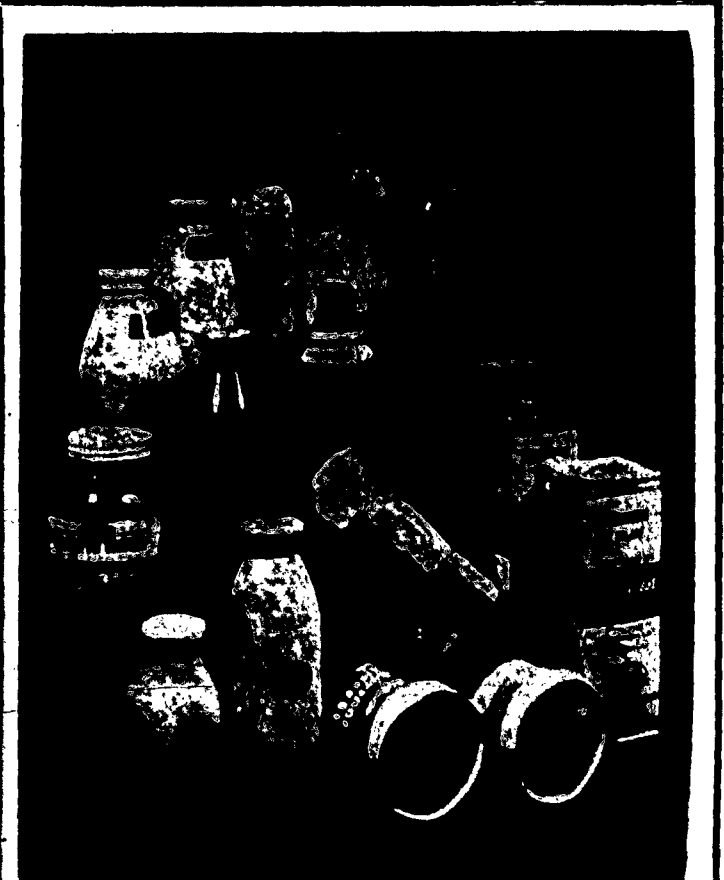
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