

Adoptions Defended

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[Excerpt from Karl Eduard von Schnitzler commentary in the series "The Black Channel"]

[Text] No forced adoption exists in the GDR, and a lie will not become true by political nobodies in the FRG and West Berlin taking it over and spreading it. For the "greatest kidnaping of all time", as FRG television named the American robbery of children in Vietnam, words of excuse and understanding were found. The United States wanted to do the best, but it did the wrong thing. Unfortunately, but with the best of intentions. An American war deprived children of their parents, families were torn apart losing their homes. Parents in mortal fear or because of hunger gave their children to homes, where they and others, taken at random from their parents, were shipped by force to America and elsewhere. These crimes are considered acts of altruism and humanity.

But the GDR is no ally, it seems to be an enemy to some people. Christmas is approaching and one wants to be altruistic, sing Christmas songs, do business and create an atmosphere. So one jumps at the ordered work of the distorting mirror: forced adoption in the GDR; the evil communists are separating children from their parents and parents from their children. And what they are doing with these children? The manipulation apparatus has been well oiled. An avalanche of slander is taking place in the best Nazi style. The CDU/CSU has its election hit, and a local Bavarian celebrity is behaving as if he were in a beer joint, and many things have come from Munich beer joints. Springer is organizing letters, telegrams and phonecalls; the people are thanking Alfred Goppel, and the CDU follower Fuerst was courageous, his supporter Franz Josef Strauss maintains. The best human feelings are being grossly misused that way, because who does not have a heart for children? What could serve better to distract from one's own difficulties and the contradictions of those wanting to create an icy climate instead of an atmosphere where normal relations could develop? These are the same powers which once wanted to torpedo in the Bundestag the Moscow-FRG, Warsaw-FRG, Berlin-FRG, and Berlin-West Berlin treaties, and they now want to activate the cold war policy aimed against detente.

It will turn out who has reason to feel embarrassed. Only that much today: These are parents giving up their socialist fatherland in violation of law, loyalty and honor. And their children? One was found locked in an apartment where all the furniture had been sold. We found it shortly before it died of starvation. The poor parents! Children have been abandoned for 15 years. But suddenly parental love is gaining ground for a few Springer marks: "I want to get my boy back. The eighth Christmas without my son." And then the money will pour in. Small children have been drugged for the flight. They were given Faustan and even ether, some suffocated in the trunks of cars. They were dead, but in the free West. Children were torn out of social security and safety. Many a father who had fled the republic is unemployed now, the family has no home, the children no homeland. Feeling lost in the FRG environment which is hostile to children.

Who is humane and who is inhuman? Are there only rights of parents and no rights of children? Are there no parental duties and a moral duty of the state to protect children if their parents casually and unscrupulously endanger their lives, health, future and existence?

There exists no forced adoption in the GDR; but there does exist the right of legally depriving unscrupulous parents of their educational rights, and there does exist the possibility of adopting children as everywhere else in the world.