

Richard and Claudia Ades

3541 Loadstone Drive
SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91403
818/784-2233 FAX 818/784-1166
E-MAIL: FilmSense@aol.com

FAX COVER SHEET**DATE:** 5/21/96**TO:** Melanne Verveer**FAX NUMBER:** 202/456-6244**FROM:** Richard and Claudia Ades**RE:** Adoption**No. OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER PAGE)** 3

For problems with transmission please call 818/784-2233

Dear Ms. Verveer,

We hope this letter finds you in good spirits. It was a pleasure meeting you at the White House on the occasion of the President's veto of HR 1833.

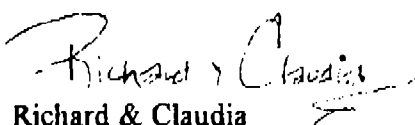
As you know, we will be adopting our baby girl in July. We are very excited personally, yet see so much room for improvement in the whole adoption process. Therefore, we've written the attached letter to the President regarding a proposal for a Clinton led reformation of the whole network of adoption laws and policy.

As much good as it will do, and that is significant, considering the current political landscape it makes for good politics as well. That shouldn't be a motivation. What is more important is that it is not a deterrent. It represents less talk and more action for American families.

Since Mrs. Clinton has been at the forefront of this issue, we thought it appropriate to send you a copy of our letter. We also sent one to Betsy Myers.

As you know, if there's anything we can do to help the President, don't hesitate to call on us.

All the best


Richard & Claudia

Richard and Claudia Ades

958 18th STREET
SANTA MONICA, CA 90403
(310) 264-9722 - (FAX) 264-9943

May 18, 1996

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our invigorating visit with you at the White House will be cherished not only for the honor of meeting you and Mrs. Clinton, but for the sense of achievement we all shared. We were filled with pride for ourselves as well as our President. Again, our most heartfelt gratitude for your courage and sensitivity.

We write to you today regarding another matter that is dear to us and under the family values banner: children (We still fondly talk about our private moment with you when you spoke of your love for children). As you know, in mid-July we are adopting a new born girl (no name yet!). After a long, tumultuous road that included six unsuccessful pregnancies, a medical matrix and prohibitive costs, we came upon an adoption process filled with the kinds of pitfalls usually created by novelists. Nevertheless, as we reach this personal milestone, we are guardedly optimistic.

We say guardedly in light of the cumbersome maize of inconsistent state laws and regulations that add unnecessary costs and encumbrances to a process that is already inherently difficult and draining. Our own situation is several thousand dollars more than it needs to be precisely because there is no uniform code in place. The recent law providing for an adoption tax credit as well as other provisions is a fabulous first step in helping would-be parents, birth parents and potential adoptees.

We confess that we don't know to what extent your administration has addressed this situation, so please know that we are not trying to usurp any person or idea. We are just, as you know, two fervidly outspoken people and we have some ideas that we would like to put forward.

In cooperation with the states there is much the federal government can do to ease the burden, streamline the process and stimulate more adoptions. To do this we feel a small commission or committee could review the situation and present you with certain options to recommend to Congress and the states. Already languishing in neverland is a document called the Uniform Adoption Act which addresses many of the legal issues involved, so we have a head start. But we need to go beyond laws to provide leadership, stimulation and incentive. The rights of everyone involved can be securely protected while still meeting the dreams of people seeking children, children seeking parents and parents seeking parents for their children.

Our birthmother told us she went to have an abortion but couldn't go through with it. It's been an emotional rollercoaster for her and the adoption matrix has made it even more wearisome. We need to make it easier for people like her as well as people like us.

If abortion is to become less prevalent in this country then we as a nation need to focus on alternatives, one of which happens to be adoption. Not only do we believe that women should have a choice, we also believe that women should have something to choose. Everything about your administration bespeaks compassion. You are the President with a heart of gold. Everything about making adoption easier and more affordable is consistent with your beliefs regarding family, family values, children and the country's future.

Pardon our brazenness, but, having been an instrumental part of a very important veto, we consider ourselves part of the Clinton Administration's extended family and as a family what happens to America's children is of paramount importance to all of us.

To this end we are making ourselves available to you and your administration to work towards a comprehensive adoption law and policy that will not only streamline the laws but provide the kind of exposure and commitment that only your office can provide. It would be a double honor to serve this cause and to serve your administration.

On behalf of all the families past, present and future, who partake in adoption, we remain,

Sincerely and Respectfully yours,

Richard and Claudia Crown Ades

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E-mail: FilmSense@aol.com

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 6/18/96

TO: Jennifer Kline

FAX NUMBER: 202/456-2878

FROM: Richard and Claudia Ades

RE: Tolerance

No. OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER PAGE) 3

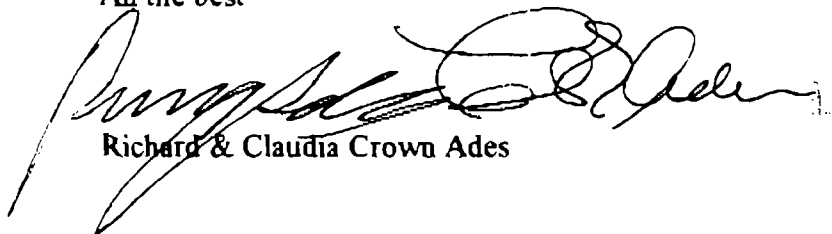
For problems with transmission please call 818/784-2233

Dear Jennifer,

Thanks again for your call. If there's anything else we can do on the adoption front, please let us know.

Attached is a copy of the letter to the President we told you about.

All the best



Richard & Claudia Crown Ades

Richard and Claudia Ades

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June 18, 1996

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I'm sure we're all tickled pink by Bob Dole's call for tolerance regarding abortion in the GOP plank. We consider this an excellent opportunity to put "Citizen" Dole back on the defensive and ensnare him by his own political opportunism.

Would Mr. Dole consider the surgery (intact d & e) that Claudia, Coreen, Mary-Dorothy, Viki, Vikki and Tammy had tolerable? Is it tolerable to want to alleviate your baby's pain? Is it tolerable to want to maintain your reproductive health in the face of such tragedy so you could go on to have the baby you so desperately want? Is it tolerable to look out for the health and welfare of a woman, of a baby, of a family? If so, then why has Bob Dole refused to listen to us? If so, then why did Bob Dole slyly engineer HR 1833 through the Senate? And if not, why not? Who is the real Bob Dole?

Mr. President, Mr. Dole's political maneuvering at the expense of women and families like those of us who were with you at the White House is what is intolerable. Never mind that we all know his gesture is full of hot air. The fact is, it is a gesture and it helps him to appear conciliatory and a leader. Phooey. We need to keep Bob Dole on his heels. Make him tell the nation why he opposes citizens like us. Make him tell the nation why tolerance doesn't include the lives and health of the innocent women whose futures are trapped in the political games of the far right.

As you know we are here for you Mr. President, but it has been hard getting exposure. We have done some effective press and debating, but not enough. Claudia is charged and ready to challenge anyone from the opposition. At the end of June, Claudia will present an award from Planned Parenthood posthumously to Dr. McMahon. The following week Claudia will address the annual convention of the National Organization for Women as she accepts their Woman of Courage Award. Other activities are scheduled for July. She has also made herself available to candidates for the House and Senate. But this is preaching to the choir.

We gave Bob Dole his chance to be truly tolerant and he ignored us. Let us now expose him. Bob Dole doesn't care about us, and he doesn't care about women. One doesn't suddenly start caring because they've become candidates. Either you care or you don't. Bob Dole doesn't care.

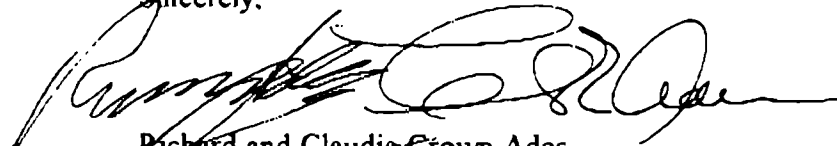
You, Mr. President, have demonstrated time and again, that you do care. Mr. Dole pays lip service to family values when we, the families that were with you, are the living proof of the true meaning of family values. We need the help of the White House to get us out there and keep Bob Dole and the right-wingers on their heels. Please help us help you.

A parallel concern of ours is the amount of time Mr. Dole is spending here in California. We'd especially like to help you here in our home state. We're here for you and we'll be there for you. Just let us know when and where.

Our regards to Mrs. Clinton. (As you know, we will be adopting a baby in the near future. We would be happy to share any thoughts, ideas, or experiences on adoption with you and Mrs. Clinton.)

All the best and best of luck.

Sincerely,



Richard and Claudia Crown Ades

CC: Leon Panetta
Betsy Myers
Melanne Verveer

July 18, 1996

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ades
3541 Loadstone Drive
Sherman Oaks, California 91403

Dear Claudia and Richard:

Thanks so much for your thoughtful letter. I appreciate knowing your thoughts about the abortion debate's role in the current campaign, and I'm deeply grateful for your continued encouragement and involvement. By sharing your story with the world, you are helping to keep the dialogue honest and informed.

Hillary and I are thinking of you and wishing you the best as you look forward to your newest family member's arrival.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/SEM/JFB/JFB/jfc-jfc (Corres. #3043493)
(7.ades.r)

cc: w/copy of inc to Jen Klein, WW

cc: w/copy of inc to Debbie Fine, 115 OEOB

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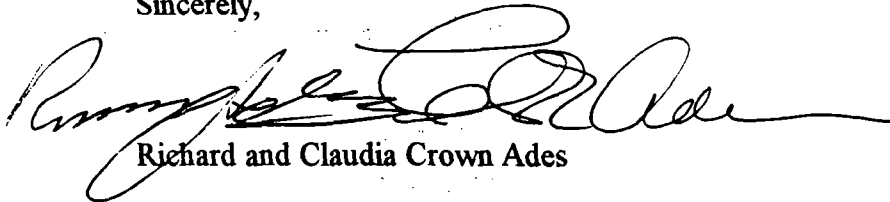
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*To Len Klein -
Len, let's discuss
& hopefully Maria's
proposing we can
do.*

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Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
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E-mail: FilmSense@aol.com

June 27, 1996

Jennifer Kline
Domestic Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Sent by fax: 202-456-2878

Dear Jennifer:

Thank you again for your phone call in response to our letter regarding adoption. We hope we were helpful. We thought it might also help if we summarized some of the issues we spoke about.

It is important to note that a piecemeal approach to streamlining adoption will not work. There are too many issues that are intertwined and thus have a ripple effect. In no special order we will list the issues and some of the questions surrounding them. This is by no means an all inclusive list. I have contacted others in the adoption world to get their input as well.

Babies' and Children's Rights: When there is a dispute over a baby between adoptive parents and one or both of the birth parents it is the child's rights which are neglected. Ways to speed up the adjudication of the law so that the all important developmental years are not spent in a legal uproar and so that neither family is financially drained to cover legal costs must be found. We cannot stress enough the importance of speeding up the legal process because a baby or child's development is at stake.

Streamlining Laws: The laws in the fifty states differ widely making the morass of compliance cumbersome and expensive. For example, there is something called an interstate compact which enables adoptive parents from one state to adopt a child in another. The cost for this basic document ranges anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000. (It is by no means the only cost) We should be able to recognize adoption across state lines without such a burden, as easily as a marriage license. This is only one example. There are a bevy of laws which need to be addressed which brings us to the Uniform Adoption Act.

Uniform Adoption Act: We wouldn't even pretend to be an authority on this proposed legislation. Know only that it has received widespread attention within the adoption community and it has it's supporters and detractors. An objective approach from the White House would be welcome and necessary if uniformity is to have a chance. At first glance, because it is written by lawyers, it tends to favor their profession.

Here's an example using existing Oregon law. We were considering a situation where the birthmother flatly refused to notify the birthfather. Since, under Oregon Law, he would have to

come forward on his own to claim his paternity rights, her action would have been completely legal. When highly respected attorney's from Oregon were consulted regarding this situation they said that if the birthfather found out (We assumed he would) he would most likely not do anything (Lawyers and Doctors are high on probabilities). However, if he did find out and did go to court, the lawyers were sure we would win. That isn't the point. The fact is, in this scenario, the lawyers are the winners because they would collect thousands in legal fees. We would be in severe debt and the child would suffer because of that. The point is attorney's see this situation as winning. Needless to say we passed.

The laws written for adoption must see to it that matters cannot be dragged out in the courts; that the steps to adoption and finalization are so clear and concise, that any questions raised later can be ruled on by a judge by decree in a matter of hours. It should be as solid as a marriage contract and as unchallengeable.

Uncompleted Adoptions: This is when a committed birthmother changes her mind. One statistic puts it at 38%. In addition to the emotional toll this takes on the adopting parents there is a sizeable amount of fraud, both intentional and unintentional. Much money is committed by adoptive parents for the costs and expenses of birth moms with regard to the pregnancy and potential adoption. Unfortunately, the more cunning birthmothers also see this as a way to make some money or get some things they've always wanted (ie: a car). Adoptive parents, so afraid they'll lose the situation, often fork out the money, even if they have to borrow it, which is often the case. Sometimes they get a baby and sometimes they don't. And, of course, there are all those people without the financial resources who don't even get a chance.

Special Needs Children: Whereas there is a high demand for newborn white babies, children with handicaps or from minorities languish in foster care for years. Ways must be found to find homes for these children through publicity, leadership and financial incentives that are not rewards or inducements but real assistance that helps ease the cost to a family already willing and able. Also, the issue of interracial adoptions needs to be addressed.

Non-Traditional Parenting: We don't know what to call it but there are many people out there who are not from traditional marriages who seek to adopt. They include single people, couples living together but not married and gay couples. If they qualify by every other criteria then taboos against them need to be removed. However, the issue of legal custody of the child needs to be addressed.

Medical Costs: Currently, one of the incentives to birthmothers is that an adoptive couple will pay their medical expenses. Again, this is a situation where money talks. Ways must be addressed where these costs can be covered without limiting adoption to only the people who can afford it. One suggestion is that if an adoptive mother carries maternity coverage, it should cover the medical costs of her birthmother after the adoption is finalized.

Moral Leadership: In the last fifteen years adoption had finally been allowed out of the closet. It's okay to talk about adoption. In fact, it's encouraged. Experience has shown that being forthright and open about adoption leads to better emotional development for the child. Adoption is just another way of starting or extending a family. Leadership at the national level is needed to publicize and normalize this trend. Making adoption a real alternative, a well-regarded choice in

the American psyche would do wonders to removing the shadows and misconceptions still cast on adoption.

In addition, here in Hollywood, many celebrities have adopted children and could and would help in whatever way were necessary to publicize and advance the cause of adoption.

Bureaucratic Costs: The state has an interest in making sure the adopting parents meet pre-determined criteria to qualify as adopting parents and that the rights of the child and the biological parents are respected and protected. This is where uniformity and speed play an important part in removing the hurdles to successful adoption.

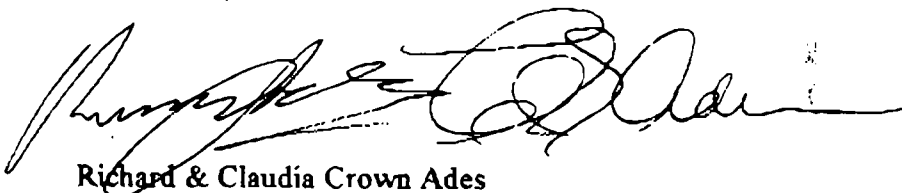
National Registry: Currently, in the search for newborns, a lot of unnecessary funds are being spent to connect potential parents with birth mothers and/or children. Likewise, in the case of special needs children, they are ignored and underpublicized. How a fair and equitable national registry would work needs to be explored. But if it can be worked out, it would go a long way to encouraging adoption while reducing fraud and costs of adoption.

The stark reality is that because more and more women have been postponing childbearing to later years more and more families are turning to adoption. It is a growing market. It is that word, market, that must be removed from the language of adoption. Adoption is something we do, not something we trade or purvey.

The more we can remove the profit motive from adoption, the more we can keep it altruistic in that a child is lovingly placed with a caring family for no other reason than to give that child a home. Achieving that goal would provide for a better, smoother and cleaner adoption process. Ideally, no-one would profit. Some individuals would earn money by providing needed services, but those costs shouldn't be extraordinary. Starting a family shouldn't be a financial burden on some, and financially inaccessible to many.

This is by no means an exhaustive list but it's a start. We are here to help the White House in any way we can. Please keep us informed of your progress on this front. Meanwhile, have a wonderful 4th of July and give our regards to all.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard & Claudia Crown Ades', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard & Claudia Crown Ades