

# Children For Sale

by Lawrence T. Newman

The headlines from the Sudan were enough to turn anyone's stomach. For a scant \$15, a Sudanese child can be bought for a life of misery in modern-day slavery. Child selling is at epidemic levels internationally. Plug into the Internet, input "sale of children" or "child trafficking," and you will get over 500 hits on just the United Nations database. Where is the major media coverage of this monstrous global catastrophe? Nowhere to be found. Today's news reports detail President Clinton's golf game, but ignore the plight of millions of our world's children, their lives and futures bartered and sold for a monetary pittance.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has addressed the serious global problem of the sale of children in hundreds of different documents. In a report submitted by the Special Rapporteur appointed in accordance with Resolution 1990/68, the definition of "sale of children" includes "a child transferred to another person in exchange for a sum of money or other considerations which do not constitute the price of the child but which nevertheless represent unjustified profits." In America, foster care "represent(s) unjustified profits" to agencies which profiteer from the removal of children from their homes and the continuing placement of these children outside of permanent homes. The profitability of foster care children is the root cause of children finding their permanent homes in the penal system. Research documents that 60-80% of the U.S. prison population used to be child-wards of the State, and there they learned that their lives had no meaning or worth to anyone.

According to the U.N. Special Rapporteur, "The key (in defining the sale of children) is the exploitation of the child, which usually entails the

action of another benefiting from the child in violation of his/her rights." This is certainly the key to therapeutic foster care, in particular, where children are billed out at rates which reach hundred of dollars a day. Foster care agencies use poor and minority children for heavy monetary gain. This constitutes the "sale of children," whose rights are violated as often as the ocean's waves hit the shore.

In Indiana, foster children are held in virtual bondage for an average of 3-5 years versus the national average of 1.4 years! Indiana's foster children are over 40% Black, while the African-American population in Indiana is about 8%! Foster children are from poor and working poor families. Indiana mirrors our national shame - a classist, racist foster care system which encourages the "sale of children" for the sake of profits to those who are supposed to protect the children.

On August 6, 1992, the United States signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR). The CCPR expressly recognizes that "the inalienable rights of all members of the human family (including children) is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." Where are our foster children's inalienable rights?

Foster care, and therapeutic foster care, in particular, stand in direct violation of international law as established in Article 7 of the CCPR, which forbids "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation." Therapeutic foster children are routinely administered psychotropic drugs without their consent and are regularly subjected to psychiatric regimes without their consent. For some of the drugs routinely forced upon foster

children by the social services, no long-term effects are known; extreme cautions are given by the Physician's Desk Reference against their use in young children; and dangerous side effects are listed. Nevertheless, foster children are forced to be the subjects of such medical experimentation and cruel treatments.

Experimentation on helpless children is not a new phenomenon in America. The infamous Kinsey Report, written by Dr. Alfred Kinsey in the 1940's, details sexual responses of children as young as 2 months old. Who would contend that these children were willing participants in these experiments? The Kinsey Report details the torture of helpless children by adult predators. Minority children did not escape the experiments. According to Dr. Judith A. Reisman, author of Kinsey, Sex and Fraud, "There is no question that some of these children (in the Kinsey Report) were taken from the Black community, and some would probably have been from several Black orphanages and homes for children that Kinsey and his team entered unmonitored."

Kinsey was a zoologist who became a sado-masochist in laboratory experiments on infants and children, whose responses to torture were timed with a stopwatch. Under today's international law, Dr. Kinsey is an evil law-breaker. As the Kinsey Institute of Indiana University embarks on its 50th anniversary celebration of its founder's macabre research, the voices of thousands of children victimized by Kinsey cry out in anger and anguish, "Close the doors of Kinsey forevermore. Bury his memory in a vacant building under tomes of records of unspeakable experiments inflicted on innocent children." May 1997 be the last year that anyone on earth will ever celebrate the memory of any man who has murdered the innocence of a child.