DEAD BABY SCANDAL

A MTYH?

Young girl weeps: 'My baby!'

"I WANT my baby!" sobbed unmarried Sydney mother Joan Murray, as these pictures of her were taken yesterday.

Reader of the Sydney Morning Herald expresses incredulity in regarding the Dead Baby Scandal (also known as Rapid Adoption):
And what is with the stories that the babies were taken and the mothers were told they were dead? One, how would you know this wasn't the truth and the child was adopted if this is what you were told? Two -what were the adoption practices at the time? As far as I am aware you had to sign papers and then were given time to opt out.[1]

Dead Baby Scandal described in an article from 1953:
Six days ago a mother entered Crown Street Hospital, in Sydney, for the fourth time. Three times she had been bitterly disappointed. This time her hopes were high but, whatever the outcome, she and her husband had determined that the lovingly planned nursery at home should not be left vacant this time. Her own baby, born prematurely, lived only a matter of hours. Immediately the father was told, he adopted a three-days-old baby and took mother and child to a private hospital. In a week's time, a proud mother will take home the babe she is nursing herself and not even her closest friends will know that the stork in this case was the Child Welfare Department. There are other cases on record in which a patient has booked a private room at the hospital; for months before she has observed appearances, and eventually spent a fortnight with the newly adopted infant, to return home in triumph. Friends call in the usual way, bringing gifts and flowers, and the pseudo-patient greets them from her bed though she has been strolling about the room a minute before and smiles her happiness from her "sick-bed." There have been instances in which parents, having relinquished all hope of having children of their own, adopt a child. Then, some years later, find they are to greet their own baby after all supply does not meet demand and a greater demand for girls than boys.[2]

Social worker gives details about the Dead Baby Scandal on National TV:
Post adoption counsellor suggests the motive for unauthorized removal of newborn infants to be placed on the alien breasts of women who had given stillbirth, claiming that the practice was: "seen in those days as a kinder way of taking the baby."[3]

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[1] "White mothers of stolen children also deserve an apology", SMH, Retrieved January 1, 2011, from http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/white-mothers-of-stolen-children-also-deserve-an-apology-20101207-18o7t.html?comments=56#comments

[2] Adoptions help cure war heartaches. (1941, December 13). The Australian Women's Weekly (1932-1982), p. 10. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47486721

[3] Youtube video: Dead Baby Scandal, Retrieved March 5, 2011, from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuYLSFu0ub0&feature=channel_video_title