

Yet even now, some ask: Why didn't they just give up? When the biological father first pressed his case, why didn't the "Does" simply hand the child over and spare him and themselves a greatly amplified agony four years later?

For the answer, consider the story of two New Yorkers, Cameron and Brandon Baldanza—a local Baby Richard case with a vastly different ending.

Cameron, born in September 1989, and Brandon, born a year later, were abandoned at the hospital by their biological mother, Magaly Galindo. To be sure, Galindo did leave the boys something to remember her by—an addiction to the heroin she pumped into her system throughout the two pregnancies.

Fortunately, there was someone unwilling to walk away from Cameron and Brandon: Millie Baldanza, a first cousin to Galindo, who took the boys into her home and into her heart, knowing in advance they entered the world as junkies.

With her husband, Jimmie, Millie nursed the two kids through a nightmare no parent would want to imagine, let alone experience—the body-quaking ordeal of drug withdrawal. Brandon and Cameron survived—and thrived.

Meanwhile, Galindo and the boys' birth father, Jose Diaz, were working as hard at being strangers as the Baldanzas were at being parents. They had virtually no contact with the boys for two years, making their very first appearance in court six months after the Child Welfare Administration began proceedings to terminate their parental rights.

Millie and Jimmie could have given up then. It would have been hard to blame them, given Child Welfare's blatant bias for "family preservation"—social-workerese for the philosophy that nothing is worse for a child than adoption. Or they might have tossed in the towel last summer, when Brandon and Cameron were forced into extended stays with their now-you-see-them, now-you-don't birth parents.

But Millie and Jimmie did not give up. And early last month, less than a week after the taking of Baby Richard, Judge Marjory Fields of the Bronx Family Court ordered the return of Brandon and Cameron to the Baldanzas at the end of this month—a delay only so they can finish the school term.

Fields based her decision on testimony from expert witnesses who concluded "the children have suffered grievous harm from being removed from the [Baldanzas'] care."

The experts backed up that grim diagnosis with tales of caseworkers forcing the screaming children into taxis for visits with Diaz and Galindo, of Cameron cowering in his closet and complaining of chest pains and headaches when the visits were increased.

The prognosis for the boys if they were taken from the Baldanzas: "personality disorder, clinical depression"—perhaps even suicide.

That would have been the fate of Cameron and Brandon had Millie and Jimmie decided to let their kids be abandoned for a second time. And tragically, it may well be what lies ahead for Baby Richard.

But win or lose, there is an even simpler reason why adoptive families are willing to fight from the very first to the very last for their kids.

Because that is what they are: our kids. Not some stereo equipment we're ready to return if it doesn't work out. Not a sports car we are borrowing for a test drive. Our kids. The second they cross our door, we have made a commitment for life, more serious than most marriages—and as sacred as birth.

Thanks to the Baldanzas and the Does for declaring it to the world: They are our kids.

TRIBUTE TO KING RAMA IX OF THAILAND

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand begins the 50th year of his reign. It is my great pleasure to join Montana's Thai community in offering him congratulations and best wishes.

THE NINTH REIGN

King Bhumibol took the name Rama IX and opened the Ninth Reign of the Chakri Dynasty on June 9, 1946, just a few months after the end of the Second World War.

At the time, like the rest of Southeast Asia, Thailand faced severe questions. They arose from the end of colonialism in neighboring countries; the rise of radical ideologies worldwide; and endemic poverty, illiteracy and illness.

Today, Thailand is one of the anchors of the modern, prosperous Southeast Asia. Bangkok has become one of the world's great cities and commercial centers. The Thai political system is evolving into a stable parliamentary democracy; in fact, a new political campaign opens today as candidates across Thailand file their papers to run for Parliament. And the Thai economy grows by 7 percent or more every year.

Much of this extraordinary success is due to the wise guidance of King Bhumibol.

The King has led by example. He has embodied the 10 traditional moral principles of Buddhist Kings: charity toward the poor; morality, sacrifice of personal interest; honesty; courtesy; self-restraint; tranquility of temperament; non-violence; patience; and impartiality in settling dispute.

And he has led by action. Together, King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit have devoted decades to improving the lives of Thai people in rural and impoverished regions. They constantly travel the country's 73 provinces, meeting with villagers and staying close to the people. The results are obvious in improved public health, the spread of education to all Thai children and the renewal of traditional crafts and textiles.

KING RAMA IX AND THE UNITED STATES

King Bhumibol has also been a great friend of the United States. During his reign, the Thai-American relationship has grown from one largely based on American aid and political support, into a partnership for trade, prosperity, environmental protection and regional peace. And Thailand is about to fulfill the pledge he made in his 1967 Address to a joint session of Congress: to end reliance on American foreign aid.

The new maturity of Thai-American relations can be seen in our prospects for trade. American exports to Thailand more than tripled in the last 7 years. They grew to nearly \$5 billion last year, and now support nearly 100,000 jobs in America.

Prospects are especially good for my State of Montana. Our farmers and ranchers can supply a generation of newly affluent Thai consumers with top-quality wheat, beef, and pork.

Montana environmental technology companies—in areas from mine waste reclamation to clean coal technology, sustainable forestry and low-impact agricultural fertilizer—can help Thailand address its fast-growing environmental problems. Firms like Mountain States Energy in Butte are already looking to the Kingdom for opportunity.

And people-to-people contracts between Thailand and Montana are growing fast. Thais like former Ambassador Birabhongse Kasemsri are helping to support the Montana economy, by coming as tourists to see our National Parks and visit our skiing areas. And in several cities, some of the newest members of the Montana family operate well-run small businesses like the Thai Deli in Missoula and the Thai Orchid Restaurant in Billings. They work hard, provide jobs and add a new touch of diversity to our State.

CONCLUSION

Mr. President, King Bhumibol is now the longest-reigning King of Thailand. And history is certain to rank his reign with those not only of the greatest Thai monarchs of the past—Ramkhamhaeng, creator of the Thai alphabet; Naresuan and Phra Narai in the Ayutthaya era; Mongkut and Chulalongkorn in the last century—but the great constitutional monarchs of the world and the democratic leaders of modern times.

It is my great pleasure to join all the Thai Montanans in congratulating King Bhumibol as he begins the 50th year of his reign, and looking forward to many more to come. •

TAKE THE LEAD, MR. CLINTON

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, recently, Matthew Miller, a former senior adviser to the Office of Management and Budget, had an op-ed piece about the budget.

It says precisely what I believe: that the Administration should have provided Congress with a better budget, that the Republicans should be applauded for trying to achieve a balanced budget by the year 2002, but that the priorities in the Republican budget are all wrong, even though the goal is a proper one.

I know the budget has already passed the Senate and the House, and we will be facing it shortly in conference, but in the belief that telling the truth always has some virtue, I ask that the Matthew Miller piece be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the New York Times, May 16, 1995]

TAKE THE LEAD, MR. CLINTON

(By Matthew Miller)

WASHINGTON.—I left the Clinton Administration in January when the White House issued a budget that I felt turned away from