

Point

Counterpoint

Alan Keyes and Hillary Rodham Clinton
Speak on Reproductive Rights

Alan Keyes

On February 19, 1995, Former UN Representative Alan Keyes heard pro-abortion statements throughout the day of a gathering of Republican candidates for President. In response, he stepped up to the microphone at the banquet and delivered a passionate speech, excerpts of which are reproduced here, calling for a hard-line anti-abortion position within the party.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

On June 13, 2006, Senator and Former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton appeared as a guest before the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association at a luncheon for the promotion of Women's Rights. In her speech, excerpts of which are reproduced here, she called for compassion and cooperation in reducing the number of abortions by reducing unwanted pregnancy.

When it comes to deciding whether we shall stand by the great principle that declares that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the right to life,

there is

no

choice

for

silence!

Increasingly, I see Washington being turned into an evidence-free zone where inconvenient facts are totally denied or dismissed, where politics are placed above policies that work, where

the beliefs and values of

Americans

are taking a back seat to the

ideological agenda

of a select

few.

Why is it that we spend so much money on welfare and illegitimacy? Why is it that we spend so much money on crime and violence in our streets? Why is it even that we spend so much money dealing with the problem of irresponsible behavior that contributes to the decline of the health of this nation?

I think you all know in your hearts what the real answer is.

We don't have

money
problems.

We have

moral
problems.

We all know it.

High

income women have quick, convenient access to contraceptives,

1 low

income women do not.

The result is often and increasingly becoming unintentional, unintended pregnancy. Today, a poor woman is four times as likely to experience an unplanned pregnancy as a higher-income woman.

Freedom requires that at the end of the day, you accept the constraint that is required, the respect for the laws of nature and nature's God that say unequivocally that your daughters do not have the right to do what is wrong, that our sons do not have the right to do what is wrong.

They do

not

have the

right

to steal bread from the mouths of the innocent,
to steal life from the womb of the unborn.

I saw in so many different settings around the world what happens when governments try to control a woman's reproductive health decisions. Whether it was Romania under a dictatorship saying you had to have children for the good of the state, preferably four or five, or China saying you had to have only one child for the good of the state,

the
government
was dictating the most **private** and **important** decisions

that **we**
as **individuals**
or **families**
can make.

The Republican Party was born on a clear commitment to principle. This Party was born of those who had the courage to stand before the American people and in the face of the threat of a greater division than we'll ever face, and insist that

we have to respect the principles

that make us

great

the principles

that make us

strong

the principles that make us

This should not be an ideological battle. This should not be about politics or partisanship.
We need to be united to respect and protect the rights that women and men have achieved over the last 100 years.

free.

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