New York Times spins leftist social agenda into â€˜Governing from the Centerâ€™

by Robert H. Knight

What does The New York Times call it when liberals concoct schemes to soak taxpayers for more government health programs, more sex and abortion clinics, and more predatory, Kinsey-based sex â€œeducationâ€• courses?

Answer: â€œGoverning from the center.â€•

In a Jan. 16 front-page article, â€œDemocrats Seek the Middle on Social Issues,â€• Times reporter Robin Toner cites the Prevention First Act, a colossal increase in Title X â€œfamily planningâ€• spending, as an example of the Democratsâ€™ â€œnew approachâ€• away from high-octane liberalism. The trouble is, itâ€™s just more high-octane liberalism. The price tag on this one is more than $600 million, a hefty increase from the usual $200 million or so that Planned Parenthood has come to expect as its annual entitlement.

Congress has funded Title X, condom-based â€œsafe sexâ€• programs and clinics, to the tune of more than $3 billion over the past three decades. A cost-benefit analysis would conclude that the government has been highly successful in generating more out-of-wedlock pregnancies, more abortions, and a plethora of sex diseases such as Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which triggers more than 4,000 cervical cancer deaths annually. Literally tens of millions of Americans now have incurable sex diseases. Instead of reversing their disastrous strategy, liberals are now talking about mandatory inoculations of 11-year-old girls with a new HPV vaccine.

This latest â€œfamily planningâ€• bill isnâ€™t even â€œnew.â€• Sen. Harry Reid introduced it on Jan. 24, 2005, along with co-sponsors Hillary Clinton, Jon Corzine, John Kerry, Diane Feinstein, Maria Cantwell, Ted Kennedy and a host of other Senate liberals.

The center-loving Democrats also plan to focus on a federal hate crimes law and a homosexual jobs bill called the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The Timesâ€™s Toner describes these two bills, which represent the heart of the radical homosexual political agenda, as â€œmuch less polarizing than the debate over same-sex marriage.â€•

Toner also quotes Rep. James E. Clyburn, who leads a â€œfaith working groupâ€• in the House and who is â€œbroadening the definition of values-related issues.â€• That means downplaying the Democratsâ€™ slavish devotion to pouring gasoline on the roaring flames of the sexual revolution, and getting back to â€œeconomicâ€• issues, such as raising the minimum wage, expanding government health insurance and tinkering with Social Security.

â€œThatâ€™s Old Testament Bible, taking care of widows and orphans,â€• Mr. Clyburn says, neatly twisting the Biblical command for charity into an excuse for further expanding the overflowing trough at which Caesar grows fat in the name of the poor.

Over in the House, Rep. Rosa DeLauro, whom Toner accurately describes as â€œan abortion rights supporter,â€• is busy working on legislation that would â€œtry to reduce the need for abortion and provide economic support to new parents.â€•

Before you get too misty-eyed at Ms. DeLauroâ€™s charitable impulse, recall that she cast votes in 2003 against banning the medically unjustifiable killing of half-delivered babies in what Toner describes as â€œthe procedure that opponents call partial-birth abortion.â€•

Toner also manages to trot out the tired media theme that Republicans do poorly when they stick to principle and would do better by moving left. The article actually contends that the GOPâ€™s â€œintense pursuit of a ban on same-sex marriage and other conservative causes ultimately backfired, making them seem out of touch.â€•

Thatâ€™s right. Being on the side of an issue that polls far higher than nearly all office seekers, even among Democrats, is costing the GOP. Stop the bleeding! Move left now!

We know it hurt the GOP to defend marriage because, as Toner tells us, â€œmany strategistsâ€• said so. These folks probably range from James Carville on the left to James Carville on the right.

If we need economic incentives to solve cultural problems, perhaps Congress should fund a new type of heart research-- the type that will lead to changed hearts, so we will stop funding the killing of babies on demand, and stop destroying childrenâ€™s innocence with graphic sex education. At the same time, Toner and The New York Times should stop spinning the liberal agenda as â€œgoverning from the center.â€•

Robert Knight is the director of the Culture and Media Institute, www.cultureandmediainstitute.org, a division of the Media Research Center.

New York Times spins leftist social agenda into â€˜Governing from the Centerâ€™ by Robert H. Knight