

THE OBSERVER

de Portland

La Cabeza Ajena

La interdependencia económica es un hecho y a la mundialización no escapa ni Cristo (en efecto, no es de hoy su transformación en musicales para Broadway y en películas), pues el Papa prepara el supershow romano del Jubileo del año 2000 que dejará decenas de miles de millones de dólares. La búsqueda de una soberanía alimentaria (o sea, de romper la total dependencia de la importación de alimentos, cada vez más difíciles de pagar); el intento de promoción de la investigación y el desarrollo y de la elevación del nivel cuantitativo y cualitativo en la enseñanza, la voluntad de destinar el grueso de los escasos recursos disponibles a satisfacer las necesidades sociales y la decisión de no pagar una deuda externa inflada, no pueden prescindir, por lo tanto, de una dosis importante de pragmatismo.

En efecto, los buenos deseos no bastan para hacer política: hay que contar también con las relaciones de fuerza necesarias y con el tiempo y la maduración de las condiciones internacionales para que aquéllos puedan convertirse en realidad. Conviene, al respecto, aprender en cabeza ajena, que en este caso es italiana. Rifondazione Comunista (RC), en efecto, permanece en la mayoría gubernamental centrista. Si la abandonara, su puesto en ella sería ocupado por grupos de centro derecha o se iría a nuevas elecciones, donde ganaría la derecha, RC perdería parte importante de sus parlamentarios aunque eventualmente

mantuviera sus votos, y quedaría aislada de los votantes de la "izquierda respetuosa" y de una parte de los sindicalistas, que la acusarían de extremista y aventurera. Es que no sólo el país está más a la derecha del gobierno sino que también la izquierda y la mayoría de los trabajadores lo está con relación a RC, lo que obliga a ésta a una política en cierta medida didáctica de las fuerzas en presencia.

Por eso, aunque sería fácil decir "no a la integración europea" (cabalgando el nacionalismo difuso), prefiere decir no a la Europa del capital financiero y sí a una unificación europea con contenido social; y aunque sería popular decir "no al pago de la deuda externa", es más inteligente renegociarla, graduar y seleccionar los pagos, para evitar fugas de capitales, mantener los puestos de trabajo, no cortar de raíz las importaciones necesarias (sin las cuales, además, es difícil exportar en cantidad suficiente). RC se mantiene pues fuera del gobierno, pero lo sostiene en el Parlamento, cargando así con parte de su impopularidad. Pero no lo apoya a cualquier costo ya que le exige políticas para los desocupados, para los jóvenes, para los ancianos y jubilados, para las zonas más pobres y, si no las obtiene, puede romper la alianza condicionada. RC exige que se le quite a los ricos, a las fuerzas represivas, a los especuladores para redistribuir las ganancias, muestra que los escasos recursos existentes pueden ser distribuidos de modo diferente y propone controles estatales y

populares, por ejemplo, para que los ricos paguen sus impuestos, o planes de trabajo en autogestión, pero también una lucha para que el Estado los reconozca y los financie, etcétera.

RC camina así por el filo de la navaja entre una política que podría conducir a la idealización de lo "real" como sólo cosa posible y al abandono de todo intento de transformar la sociedad y de imponer una alternativa en nombre de meras reformas del sistema, y otra política del "todo o nada", de la pureza principista a costa del irrealismo, del aislamiento, al fin de cuentas, de la creación de condiciones sociales aún más desfavorables para las luchas de los trabajadores. RC está así ante Scilla y Caribdis, los dos escollos enfrentados que llaman al naufragio, los peligros gemelos de oportunismo y sectarismo, que acechan siempre a quien quiere ser, a la vez, realista renovador. Porque sólo se es realista buscando lo que está naciendo y ayudándolo a desarrollarse para mejorar la suerte de los trabajadores. Es realismo a la vez radical y moderado comprender el nivel de la conciencia popular y la situación social, no para resignarse y aceptar esa situación sino para partir de ella con el fin de modificarla. En un momento en que una parte importante de la izquierda latinoamericana cree que la moderación a toda costa y los acuerdos con enemigos son signos de sabiduría o de astucia, ¿por qué no ver qué hacen los vecinos que buscan rutas nuevas en los peligrosos estrechos europeos?

Bill is an 11-year-old male of Hispanic/Caucasian origins. He has a medium skintone, black hair, and dark brown eyes which reflect the Cuban ancestry of his birth mother.

Currently a 5th grader, Bill describes himself as a "happy" person most of the time. He enjoys many activities and interests common to boys his age. Nintendo, Boy Scouts, wrestling, and football are all activities which help absorb his abundant energy.

Bill's daily routine includes cleaning his room, and changing the bed sheets when he has wet the bed - the occurrence is associated with anxiety and possible intake of milk products.

He is asked to help with the dishes, and caring for family pets. Restriction from games, television, social privileges or the assignment of additional household chores are his primary forms of discipline. Because Bill perceives the world as black and white, clear and consistent expectations are a must for him, along with "picking your battles."

Due to circumstances beyond his control, there has been a long delay in recruiting an adoptive family for Bill. His therapist and foster family are confident he can succeed in adoption, and they base that judgment on his progress over the past few years.

Due to a history of abuse and neglect, Bill has learned to be guarded, especially when persons in authority enter his life. Yet, he has formed a positive attachment and trusting relationship with his foster family, helping him give up the need to be in constant



Bill is awaiting adoption through State Office for Services for Children and Families

control. Bill needs a family to be encouraging of his interests and abilities, insightful about the effects of his past, and flexible in their expectations. While he has had an easier relationship with his foster dad, Bill

will do best with a mother figure who is warm and can resist power struggles. Parents who can truly understand what he has endured and appreciate his gains will find Bill a rewarding son.

Give The Gift Of Adoption Any Time Of Year

Guest Opinion By Kay Toran, the director of the State Office for Services to Children and Families

The season for giving has a different meaning for children who are waiting to be adopted. The dream of a forever family tops every birthday, holiday and with list for these children.

Recognizing that too many birthdays and holidays pass before the dream is realized, the State Office for Services to Children and Families has launched a campaign to turn the "most waiting" children into the most wanted.

The Longest Waiting Child project focuses on the 25 Oregon children who have been waiting the longest for adoptive homes. Working closely with the Special Needs Adoption Coalition, SCF has stepped up its efforts to place these children, including offering private adoption agencies monetary incentives to make permanent placements.

Every year, many children in Oregon are left without a permanent home because their birth parents could not care for them.

Every year many Oregonians come

forward to open their homes to such children and give them the gift of a lifetime. As a child is placed in a permanent home and removed from the list, another is added.

SCF is a special needs adoption agency. The children we place are special children with special needs. Special needs refers to children older than 5, children with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities, sibling groups and children of color. Minority families are always needed because SCF workers try to help children grow with a strong sense of racial and cultural identity.

Providing children with safe and permanent families is a part of SCF's mission. A family, not foster care, is the best place to grow a child.

Foster care is a necessary but a temporary resource. As wonderful as our foster parents are - God's heroes as I like to call them - they are in place to help children make the safe passage back to their own home, when possible, or on to an adoptive home.

SCF does not charge a fee to adopt and does not want finances to stand in

the way of a child or children finding a permanent home.

Some families adopting special needs children qualify for adoption assistance - a small sum of money to help with monthly expenses, including medical needs, associated with the adoption.

An adoption worker helps an adoptive family from the beginning and works with the family until the adoption is final. Once the court grants an adoption, a new birth certificate is issued and the child becomes, in the eyes of the law, a permanent part of the adoptive family.

Adoption is the way to give children the kind of security they need. With love, patience and a sense of humor, adoptive parents can help children heal, learn to trust again and create a sense of belonging.

If you are interested in adopting a child, don't let another holiday or birthday pass. Call SCF at 1-800-331-0503 or the Special Needs Adoption Coalition at 1-800-342-6688 to give a child a gift that will last forever.

Give the gift that tells a child "I belong."



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Piense: Su hijo es inteligente, saludable y encabeza la lista para ir a la universidad. Le encanta la trayectoria que su carrera ha tomado. Está haciendo muchas de las cosas

que planeó y hasta otras que no había planeado. Vivir la vida en plenitud es fácil cuando tiene una familia que lo respalda American Family Insurance. Llame ahora mismo y platique con nuestros agentes amables.

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Distinctive Features Is Dedicated To The Safety Of Portland Children

With over 800,000 children reported missing annually in the US, two NE Portland locals started Distinctive Features, a child identification card company. The business offers do-it-yourself identification kits that allow parents to construct a complete identification card of their child. The cards include thumbprint, photo and other significant information.

A Distinctive Features ID Card, carried by the responsible party, can provide authorities with ready infor-

mation of the missing child. "Distinctive Features ID Cards gave me peace of mind knowing my children's caregivers can act immediately if a separation or accident occurs," says Sheila Meyer, a Portland parent. Many parents are confident they know their child well enough to describe them to others, however panic can often cloud judgement and reaction in a desperate situation.

Distinctive Features ID Cards are available in local stores and sold over

the Internet at www.distinctivefeatures.com. Having sold kits as far away as Maryland, Georgia, Arizona and New York, the Internet has provided an excellent medium for doing business. Pet and adult cards are also available.

For more information on Distinctive Features and their Identification Kits, call 503-285-2606. Or visit the distinctive Features World Wide Web site at <http://www.distinctivefeatures.com>.

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