

## ***The social thing***

The abundant resources of the pattern economic financier and the pattern of reconciliation of interests and conflicts adopted by the democratic régime of Punto Fijo allowed to assign to the Venezuelan State a fundamental role in the design and setting in practice of a social constructive politics. Social this politics was channeled through the political parties and the union organizations that served as transmission belts between the necessities and the population's expectations and the State distributor and generous. The State, through its ministries and institutes, assumed the direct benefit of the public services and of the social subsidies. The State was creating, this way, an assistance extensive and complex net to whose services were having access gradually the population. It is undeniable and notable the elevation of the literacy indexes, of half and superior school, of health, of birth control, of expectation of life, of socio biological growth, residence, communications, sports. "The decades of the years 60 and 70 were of relative distribution in the population's group" (M. Kornblith). The breach between the most favored sectors and the less favored ones it got wider progressively, but it is undeniable that in gilded this period, the group enjoyed a collective certain well-being, at the same time that the expectations were grown.

From 1983 it caused a stagnation and a smaller acting of the socioeconomic financier and populist pattern up to now. The main indicators of individual well-being and community don't leave place to doubt of the involution to that it came subjected the country. With frankness and persistence, Uslar Pietri ("El mal de Venezuela", 1997) was denouncing what has been the paradox of Venezuela in many years:

"That gigantic and almost invaluable expense capacity, in hands of a State that, during that whole time, it was characterized by the mentality interventionist, statistic, populist and non capitalist of their leaders, led to the dramatic contradiction of the current crisis that it suffers the country: a vastly rich State and inspector and a

poor and late society that she has become, in enormous proportion, in a parasite of the public expense, constituting an abnormal society in the one that, instead of living the State of the Nation, like in the generality of the countries, the Nation lives of the State".

There is a synthetic indicator (because it picks up them to all the other ones without palliatives) and it is that of the increase of the Venezuelan population in situation of *poverty*. We recommend the current study by Ugalde-España-Lacruz-De Viana-González-Luengo-Ponce: *Detrás de la Pobreza* [Behind the Poverty] UCAB, Caracas 2004.

It is terrifying the general impoverishment that it has come suffering the Venezuelan society in the last 30 years. The real minimum wage of a worker (US \$ 500) was not able to cover the minimum family basket, in spite of the collective conventions of salary adjustment. The high costs of the macro-economic measures of liberal court and bottom-monetarist that were rehearsed in certain tracts of the last governments, have relapsed mainly on the middle class, and they become unbearable for the popular classes. Certain statistical studies pointed out that sectors existed in critical poverty, that is to say in misery, for the order of more than 40% of the whole population. OCEI (Central Office of Statistical and Computer science), with base in data obtained through Survey of Homes pointed out (already in December 1997) 68.7% as the percentage of poor Venezuelans. And more recent data approached the figure to the population's 80%.

Empty stomachs, unemployed hordes, excluded dives, conglomerates without public services, suffering middle class and other serious realities, conformed a volcano of eventual eruption on which came settling Venezuela.

The country gave in 1999 to the president Chávez and to the application of the new Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic a wait compass and of cooling of a more critical and more explosive eventual situation with an eye toward that you rebuild the Republic with an economic, social, political and ethical new line that allowed a better term for the new millennium.

