

Jorge Carrillo, the Worker-Minister Who Played the ‘LaRouche Card’

by Maximiliano Londoño Penilla

On March 20, the well-known Colombian trade union leader and former Labor Minister, Jorge Carrillo Rojas, died at the age of 69, while serving as director of the Peasant Family Compensation Fund, Comcaja, to which position he was named by President Alvaro Uribe. In all the various positions Carrillo held, from factory worker to Labor Minister to Ambassador to Guatemala, Carrillo was always the simple man we all knew, but deeply passionate and vigorous in defense of the legitimate interests of human beings everywhere: their inalienable right to dignified, stable, and well-paid employment. Carrillo responded quickly and effectively to the challenges of his time, embracing the banner of social justice of the Catholic Church, as expressed in particular in the teachings and works of Popes Leon XIII, John XXIII, Paul VI, and John Paul II. Carrillo’s commitment to this view of social change and progress for the people was made stronger, through the close friendship and collaboration he sustained during the past nearly 30 years with U.S. statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, and with his wife, the German political leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

This author, in the privileged double role of being both a personal friend and collaborator of Carrillo’s, on the one hand, and LaRouche’s political representative in Colombia, on the other, for the past three decades, can affirm with cause that Carrillo played the “LaRouche card” to its ultimate consequences, despite the pressures and threats to which he was subjected on the part of various spokesmen for the current international financial cartel, which rules the world from Wall Street and the City of London.

In the book *Theses of a Worker-Minister on the Problem of Unemployment. Memoir 1985-1986*, published in April 1986 by the Colombian Labor Ministry, various of the most relevant speeches and documents of Carrillo’s term in office as Minister of Labor and Social Security are collected. Let’s look at these from the standpoint of universal history. How did Jorge Carrillo manage to become Labor Minister in the Belisario Betancur government, when that administration’s Finance Minister, Roberto Junguito, had spent the previous

three years executing the most orthodox and savage of the International Monetary Fund’s prescriptions? More to the point, how was it possible for Carrillo, who as labor leader with the Union of Colombian Workers (UTC) had been the loudest opponent of the IMF policy implemented by Junguito, to end up as part of the same Cabinet in which existed two totally antagonistic economic agendas? And finally, how is that Carrillo named Maximiliano Londoño Penilla, the public spokesman of LaRouche’s policies in Colombia, as his economic advisor at the ministry?

Conflict With López Michelsen and The Drug Lords

In two of his books, former Colombian President and messenger of the drug cartels Alfonso López Michelsen referred with surprise to the appointment of Londoño to the ministerial advisory post, and indicated that he raised the issue with then President Belisario Betancur. In the book, *Parable of the Return*, in the context of trying to justify why he had met with the heads of the drug cartels in Panama scarcely one week after they had assassinated Colombian Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, López writes: “A few months later, one Maximiliano Londoño, whom I had never met before in my life, began to accuse me of drug trafficking, of having kidnapped his wife, and of having been an accomplice in the episodes related to the Banco de Colombia and the Grancolombiano Group. . . . It is the known tactic of U.S. politician LaRouche, who provides funds to the so-called ‘Andean Movement of the Antidrug Coalition’”

López was referring to the kidnapping of my wife, Patricia [who was later freed—ed.], just two months after the active and courageous Justice Minister Lara Bonilla was murdered by the drug lords, the same ones with whom López had met with in Panama, supposedly to transmit their proposal that they were ready to sign an “honorable peace,” and even pay off Colombia’s foreign debt in exchange for not being extradited to the United States. With the assassination of Lara, the drug traffickers hoped to force the Betancur government to



Jorge Carrillo and his friend and collaborator Pedro Rubio (center, with Carrillo on the right), at the third international conference of the Schiller Institute, Nov. 24, 1984. Standing to greet them is Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the institute's founder, and the wife of Lyndon LaRouche.

its knees; but this backfired, because instead of weakening, the government's anti-drug policy became still tougher.

And again, in his book *Pending Words. Conversations with Enrique Santos Calderón*, published in April 2001, López insists on asking why Betancur permitted the naming of Londoño to the Labor Ministry. The fundamental issue is that, despite the kidnapping of my wife, with the intent of destroying LaRouche organizing activities in Colombia, activities which among others had contributed to the fact that López was thwarted in his efforts to regain the Presidency, since the LaRouche-associated Andean Labor Party had denounced López as "the chicken with eggs of coca," I repeat that the kidnapping of my wife received a response on the part of LaRouche, which López and the narcos never expected. LaRouche headed up an international campaign, in all the major capitals of the world, in which he denounced López's role in promoting a "peace process" with the Cali and Medellín drug cartels. LaRouche gave instructions that the very interview that López had given to the newspaper *El Tiempo*, after having met with the drug lords, would be publicized worldwide. In that interview, López declared himself the mafia's messenger, and demanded that the Colombian government submit to the interests of the drug traffickers.

Of course, imagine López's surprise when, just a few months after the mafia assassination of Lara Bonilla and the kidnapping of my wife, LaRouche's friend Jorge Carrillo, now Betancur's Labor Minister, named me as his economic advisor. In sum, in his defense of Colombia, LaRouche had achieved the following: 1) contributed decisively to prevent-

ing López Michelsen from returning to the Colombian Presidency; 2) destroyed the operation of López and the drug cartels, according to which the Colombian state would have to submit to the conditions dictated by force by the narcos; and 3) that his spokesman in Colombia was named economic advisor to Labor Minister Carrillo, who at the time was also the friend and collaborator of LaRouche.

Ibero-American Integration

In 1982, LaRouche had published his strategic memorandum *Operation Juárez*, in which he detailed an alternative policy to the demented fiscal austerity policies of the IMF. LaRouche had met in May 1982 with then Mexican President José López Portillo, and the book *Operation Juárez* had come out of those discussions. In August 1982, President López Portillo, in defense of the legitimate and sovereign interest of his nation, had declared a moratorium on the foreign debt of Mexico, an action which was not at the time backed by Brazil and Argentina, but which caused widespread panic within the creditors' cartel, the would-be gods of Olympus who dominate the world. By September 1982, López Portillo had imposed exchange controls and nationalized the Mexican banking system, as well. López Portillo thus detonated the "debt bomb," and as a sequel to this process, LaRouche commissioned the preparation and publication of the book *Ibero-American Integration: One Hundred Million New Jobs by the Year 2000*. LaRouche wrote the prologue to this book in April 1986, in which he detailed the great infrastructure projects that needed to be undertaken in the region, if poverty and

unemployment were to be definitively eradicated. The book was published in both English and Spanish.

At the current time, the essence of that book's proposals continues to be the real agenda for the survival of the nations of Central and South America. The book details the railway corridors that should join together the continent; the great hydraulic projects to connect the Orinoco, Amazonas, and Paraná basins of South America; the hydraulic Plan of the Northeast, and the Hydraulic Plan of the Northwest Gulf, to bring water from the rivers of southern Mexico to the dry northern regions; the interoceanic canals to join the Pacific and the Atlantic; the great agricultural, mineral, and industrial projects for the region; the industrial use of nuclear energy, lasers, and high-intensity beam weapons; and the foundations to establish an Ibero-American Common Market—all projects that needed to be undertaken immediately to put an end to the bleeding of our nations through the growing and usurious servicing of the foreign debt.

The recent call for Ibero-American integration on the part of Presidents Luis Inácio Lula Da Silva of Brazil, Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, Alvaro Uribe of Colombia, and José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero of Spain (see article in *Economics*), can only be understood in its true dimensions if one understands the profound impact on the region and on the world by—as López Portillo stated—the “wise words of Lyndon H. LaRouche.”

In November 1984, during the third international conference of the Schiller Institute, held in Washington, D.C., the Trade Union Commission of the Schiller Institute was created, of which Jorge Carrillo was a founding member. In July 1985, in Mexico City, the First Continental Trade Union Conference, in which the Ibero-American Trade Union Commission was established, was held. Among the coordinators of this body was Pedro Rubio, friend and representative of Carrillo. On Sept. 2, 1985, Carrillo was sworn in as Colombia's Labor Minister. In August 1986, the book *Ibero-American Integration* was published, of which more than 50,000 copies circulated in just its first edition. In October 1987, the Wall Street crash that LaRouche had forecast, occurred on schedule. From that point onward, the density of banking, commercial, and industrial bankruptcies, and the bursting of numerous financial bubbles, has worsened.

Jorge Carrillo was a pioneer in this battle for the physical integration of our nations. His legacy is more in effect than ever; we shall miss him, but the guiding light of his courage and of his teachings will continue to light our way.

—Bogota, April 4, 2005

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Jorge Carrillo: Leader For Social Justice

by Javier Almario

Social and economic justice, the general welfare, real economic progress, improvement in the living standards of the workers, the dignity of labor, and in general, the social doctrine of the Catholic Church and the harmony of interests between workers and businessmen, were constant themes in all of Jorge Carrillo Rojas's thoughts and actions, whether as a polemical trade union leader, as Labor Minister, as political activist, analyst, ambassador, or as administrative director of the Peasant Family Compensation Fund, the position he assumed in 2003, and which he held until his death on March 20, 2005.

Jorge Carrillo was going to be 70 years old on April 9, 2005. He was born in Bogota on April 9, 1935, although his family is from Boyaca, and he lived most of his childhood and youth in that province. When he was a boy, a friend of his father took him every Friday to hear the Colombian nationalist leader Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, who paradoxically died on one of his birthdays.

Because his school performance wasn't the best, his father decided that “this boy won't be a doctor, so he will have to learn a trade,” and he was sent to the School of Arts and Trades in Chiquinquirá. When Carrillo was 14 years old, his father died, which, as he told it, “forced me to crack the books.” He graduated as a mechanic and got a job as a lathe operator, third class, in the Paz del Río steel plant.

Later, he went to Bogota and worked in machine shops, holding various jobs until being employed by Cauchosol, which no longer exists. There, in 1955, he entered the union, and as a member of the union, he organized a series of sports competitions in which primarily the youth participated. There he met his wife-to-be, Maria Ramirez. Those same youth voted for him to become a member of the union's steering committee, as secretary general of the union. This union was affiliated to UTRACUN (the Workers Union of Cundinamarca) and the national UTC (Union of Colombian Workers).

Carrillo took various union courses given by the Jesuits at the Javeriana University, where they taught accounting, administration, leadership, economic solidarity, and the social doctrine of the Church. From very early on, he understood that although it was necessary to fight for the workers, the goal of trade unionism was not class warfare, but that there had to be a “harmony of interests” between workers and businessmen.



Carrillo greets Pope John Paul II in Bogota, where the Pope has given a mass dedicated to the workers of Colombia, in July 1986. It is estimated that 2 million people participated. To the Pope's left is President Belisario Betancur.

He became a trade union activist in UTRACUN and was involved in the creation of 40 trade unions. Later, he was elected secretary general of the UTC, in which post he served for ten years. Later, he was secretary of political affairs and vice president of that labor federation.

Entering Politics

Never forgetting his union obligations, Carrillo was elected a deputy to the Cundinamarca Assembly in 1968, by a dissident faction of the Liberal Party headed by Consuelo de Montejo. In 1980, he supported Presidential candidate Belisario Betancur against the candidate of the National Front, former President Misael Pastrana Borrero. In 1974, Carrillo was elected for four years to the Federal House of Representatives, where he presented a bill to force businessmen to pay interest on severance pay.

From the Congress, he supported the 1977 National Civic Strike, in which for the first time, the (Conservative) UTC, the (Liberal) CTC, the (Communist) CSTC, and the (Christian Democratic) CGT labor federations joined forces in a common action. It is possible that from that moment onward, he began to think about creating the Unified Workers Federation (CUT), to pull all the unions into a single organization.

A Harmony of Interests

As of 1978, Carrillo became one of the leading opponents of the economic policies of the International Monetary Fund and of a whole succession of finance ministers. He fought the idea that inflation could be controlled by lowering workers' wages, or by increasing them at a rate below the inflation level. He proposed the creation of a common front of workers and businessmen, to force the banks to lower interest rates

that were strangling in equal measure "the companies and the workers."

He studied the history of the United States, to try to understand how that country had the highest wages in the world, and at the same time generated the highest profits for its companies. He mentioned that Henry Ford, although a fierce enemy of trade unionism, nonetheless paid the highest wages in the United States at his factories, and by this means encouraged productivity and a capacity for innovation. In effect, the creator of the modern automobile realized that the car industry only had a future "to the extent that the auto workers and workers in other industries have the ability to buy a Ford."

To those who proposed eliminating the minimum wage, eliminating social benefits and the various

achievements of the workers, which some economists and businessmen were proposing as a means to create more jobs, Carrillo charged that they wanted to send humanity back centuries and turn workers into slaves. He stated many times that inflation must be fought by producing more, with better technology, with more skilled jobs, and by fighting usury.

He studied the problem of the Colombian and Ibero-American debt in depth, and concluded that this debt has already been paid several times over, and its continued growth was due to financial manipulations. He supported the idea of a collective moratorium on the Ibero-American foreign debt, by forming a debtors' cartel, and that the economy of the countries of the region would be integrated through great physical infrastructure projects, an idea first expressed by U.S. economist Lyndon LaRouche in the 1982 book entitled *Operation Juárez*.

In 1982, when UTRACUN ended its affiliation with the UTC, Carrillo and his close friend Pedro Ignacio Rubio organized the Union of Bogota and Cundinamarca Workers (UTRABOC), turning it into the regional organization of the UTC.

The Betancur government organized a meeting in the city of Cartagena in 1983, to discuss the problem of the Ibero-American foreign debt, and threatened to use the debt bomb to pressure for negotiations. However, at the last moment, the President retreated, undoubtedly because support from other Ibero-American countries was not sufficient. The Cartagena meeting went from a Debtors' Cartel to a Payers' Cartel, and the Betancur government acceded to pressures to impose a drastic adjustment program, during which "drop-by-drop" devaluation of the Colombian currency turned into a flood. At that point, Carrillo became the main opponent of the gov-

ernment's economic policy, and that of its Finance Minister, Roberto Junguito Bonnet.

Labor Minister

When President Betancur announced his nomination of Carrillo for Labor Minister, the debate was hot and heavy. "How could it occur to the President to name the leading opponent of his economic adjustment policy to the labor ministry?" Former President Alfonso López Michelsen accused the government of attempting a "Peronist" model, in reference to the alliance of Juan Perón with Argentina's CGT labor federation. Minister Junguito was on the verge of resigning. The weekly magazine *Semana* predicted that the experiment wouldn't last. The organizations of businessmen argued that Carrillo would be biased in favor of the workers, and Carrillo admitted that this was true.

On Sept. 2, 1985, Carrillo assumed the post of Labor Minister in the Betancur government. From his first actions in labor conflicts at the time, Carrillo proved himself a great negotiator, intellectual, visionary, and also an excellent administrator. He took advantage of every opportunity to convince the country and the world that unemployment could only be resolved with large investments in economic development, both by the state and by the private sector. He argued that promoting micro-companies as the supposed solution to unemployment would only encourage the growth of the informal sector, where workers could not even get a minimum wage.

Carrillo promoted the construction of the Atrato-Truandó Canal, of various transport infrastructure and health projects, and projects that would integrate the nations of Ibero-America. With the exception of a strike at the Caracol radio station, which Carrillo refused to declare illegal despite pressures to do so, labor peace reigned under his ministry (something which hadn't been seen in the country for a long time) and earned him praise from both the workers and the business sector. Carrillo will be remembered in Colombian history with the honorable title of The Worker Minister.

Unifying the Labor Movement

He had barely completed his stint at the Labor Ministry when he dedicated himself completely to pulling all the labor federations together into the Unified Workers Conference, with the idea that workers would unite into a single powerful organization independent of the political ideologies they held. Carrillo became its first president, through 1988, when he resigned his post. As president of the CUT, Carrillo cultivated a close friendship with Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva, who was president of his country's CUT at the time, and who is today the President of Brazil.

Later, Carrillo became an advisor to the Peace Advisory Council, official government delegate to annual meetings of the International Labor Organization (ILO), and Colombian Ambassador to Guatemala in 1994.



Jorge Carrillo at the Nariño Presidential Palace in Bogotá on Nov. 24, 2003, on the occasion of the issuance of the first unemployment subsidies handed out by Comcaja, the Peasant Family Compensation Fund, which he headed.

Carrillo also participated in a number of world forums. In 1980, he participated in the founding of the Club of Life, led by German political figure Helga Zepp-LaRouche, whose intent was to combat spreading Malthusianism worldwide. In 1982, he participated in the founding of the Schiller Institute, also led by Helga Zepp-LaRouche. It was his idea, and that of Pedro Rubio, to organize a Schiller Institute Labor Commission, to fight for a new and more just world order.

In 1998, together with former Mexican President José López Portillo, U.S. economist Lyndon LaRouche, and other world personalities, Carrillo signed a widely circulated international statement which proclaimed the necessity of a Union of Sovereign States to reorganize the world monetary and financial system, to create a new, just world order.

He participated in the Presidential campaign of current Colombian President Alvaro Uribe Vélez, and from 2003 to the time of his death, was the Administrative Director of the Peasant Family Compensation Fund (Comcaja.) Carrillo always thought that Comcaja was the best mechanism available for the government to carry out its social policy. Because of Colombian business culture, we no longer spoke of "Compañero Jorge" or "Compañero Carrillo," but called him "Dr. Jorge Carrillo," which is the customary way we speak to an administrative director or a general manager in the business world. His main achievement in Comcaja was to transform a company on the verge of bankruptcy into a viable entity.

Throughout his illness, Carrillo was always lucid. Even when his body could no longer function, he was always bril-

liant, contributing ideas to improve Comcaja's operations, how to improve the country, and analyzing the world situation and the situation inside Colombia. Those of us who had the opportunity to visit him or to hear him speak from his sickbed, could not help but feel his optimism, strength of purpose, and goodness. We could see the immortal spirit lodged in a body growing weaker every day. He died fully conscious.

Several months earlier, he thought that President Uribe was going to name him ambassador to some country where the government needed a person of his profile. There was much conjecture about what that country might be. But the trip was not to take place in this world, and on Sunday, March 20, 2005, God called on him to end his stay in the material universe.

Documentation

Carrillo's Campaign vs. Fascist Economics

August 1985: Jorge Carrillo Rojas gave this speech to a conference on the proposed Atrato-Truandó interoceanic canal. He was then vice-president of the Union of Colombian Workers (UTC) and president of the UTRABOC, its regional branch:

"The jobs which the country needs must be jobs which are well paid and highly productive, in the sense of creating useful, tangible wealth. Micro-businesses, businesses so small that you have to use a microscope to see them, do not serve to exploit our natural resources such as coal, oil, natural gas, uranium, and phosphoric rock. To base a development program for the country on micro-businesses is to turn over the exploitation of our resources to the designs of multinational firms, which go so far as to finance guerrilla groups, while we fool around with little candy carts, and stalls which sell *arepas* and *bocadillos*, as if this were our supposed 'autonomous' model.

"The micro-businesses, which some call low-capital, labor-intensive industries, do indeed seem to employ more of the population, but at a lower salary level, which means that more people work for the same amount of income.

"This is the same monetarist and usurious mentality of all those who loudly insist that the way to create employment is to eliminate fringe benefits, to thus have more people working, but reduce the remuneration per worker. This was Hitler's idea—the Hitler who gave everyone employment in the concentration camps, where he had no need to pay any salary because people had no food, and were just waiting to die.

"The reason micro-businesses cannot provide good sala-

ries is because of their low productivity. If modern and advanced technology is used, productivity is greater, that is, each worker produces a greater quantity of goods with less effort, and the companies are in a better position to give the workers better salaries.

"That is why, on many occasions the UTC and UTRABOC have defended the launching of great economic development projects, such as the Atrato-Truandó Interoceanic Canal. Even more important than the quantity of people employed directly in the construction and running of the canal, is the increase in productivity that it would give to the whole economy. The construction of the canal would create the foundations for an initial population of 250,000 in new settlements. These people would have different kinds of jobs in economic projects which have been described here, projects which would be impossible without the canal. With the canal, we are integrating a region of national territory into the national economy."

August 1985: In an interview with the Colombian magazine *Semana*, Carrillo challenged the IMF-dictated decree of a 10% ceiling on wage increases, insisting that "if the cost of living increases more than 20%, you can't raise that of the workers only 10%. . . . This measure is not good for business either, nor for the economy, since the workers will have less money to buy with. I will fight to change this measure, and I believe I can count on the support of the President."

Semana interjected, "But surely the finance minister and the IMF are not going to agree," to which Carrillo responded, "All of this depends, as in many cases, on the President. We cannot stay on good terms with the international banks at the cost of sacrificing the population. Look what has happened to those theoretically wealthy countries like Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and even Bolivia, following their agreements with the IMF."

In a separate interview, Carrillo declared: "Our nations will continue to pay [their debts] insofar as their economies are reactivated. However, if they continue to humiliate us, forget it, we won't be able to pay. The fact is that industries in the country cannot continue working to pay interest. Colombia has to pay \$1.7 billion to cover the service on the foreign debt. We must slow down the rhythm of the devaluation of our currency, or we will degenerate into chaos. Our products are being bought at bargain prices, and everything we have to import costs much more."

Inauguration as Labor Minister

Sept. 2, 1985: At his swearing-in ceremony as Colombia's new Labor Minister, Jorge Carrillo addressed nearly 1,000 guests and supporters, including President Belisario Betancur, while 5,000 trade unionists, representing nearly every labor federation in the country, gathered in solidarity outside the Presidential palace where the ceremony took place. Here is his inaugural speech:

"There are those who say we cannot accomplish great

things because ours is a poor country and we live in an equally poor neighborhood. Others ask themselves, what can the labor ministry do, with its limited resources? I grant that we do have many deficiencies, in fact, at the present moment. However, all we need for our development can be built, if we but utilize the potential for wealth which our unemployed represent.

“This ministry will definitely give priority to fostering the creation of productive jobs. All Colombians have the right to a decent job. None of our countrymen need suffer the penalty of having to sell foreign cigarettes on Seventh Avenue in order to survive.

“The nation’s sovereignty must be supported by great infrastructure projects—such as railroads, highways, ports, hydroelectric plants, and the Atrato-Truandó interoceanic canal—works which we Colombians will have to build.

“The efficiency of these methods to achieve development, to increase the power of labor, has already been conclusively proven by other nations. In the midst of the worst economic depression that ever afflicted the world, in the 1930s, the U.S. forged its present industrial base, through the construction of great projects.

“To go ahead with the implementation of these great projects will guarantee fulfillment of Article 17 of our Constitution: ‘Work is a social obligation, and shall enjoy the State’s special protection.’

“Only in the minds of a very few can a deadly confrontation between capital and labor be conceived. Neither the workers nor this ministry see an enemy in capital invested to create jobs in our country. The only enemy of labor is speculation, which destroys labor while it makes productive capital investment impossible.

“According to Article 30 of the National Constitution, under which ‘property is a social function that implies obligations,’ I urge the business community to present concrete proposals for the creation of new jobs. The country is eager to hear of these initiatives.

“As Pope John Paul II wisely expresses in his encyclical on human labor, ‘Work is a good for man, is a good for humanity, because through work, man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he realizes himself as a man; what’s more, in a certain sense, he becomes more of a man.’

“Because of this, our debt is with the workers, with the unemployed, with all generations of Colombians; not just the present, but also the preceding ones and those to come.

“This debt, I promise, we shall honor.”

Battling the IMF, Drugs, AIDS

October 1985: Speech by Labor Minister Carrillo to the Conference of Inter-American Labor Ministers, gathered in Costa Rica:

“... To pay debt service, we have contracted the real economy to such a degree that the bankruptcy of industries and

growing unemployment here have become the breeding ground for a social holocaust of unforeseen consequences. Our political parties and our democracy are destabilized by the adjustment programs of the financial institutions. In this kind of situation, all kinds of extremism find fertile ground. The measures that have been implemented, apart from being short term, have had but one purpose: generating resources to service the foreign debt, without taking into account the investment needs of the nation nor the consumption needs of the population.

“The deans of international finance may think they can impose this kind of policy with impunity. The truth is that we are about to reach an inflection point, in which the downward spiral in which we have been trapped will become even more accelerated. Neither our biosphere nor our social and political institutions will withstand this deterioration.

“What we are witnessing is not another Depression like that of the ’30s. What we are allowing to occur can only be compared to the Black Death which, in the 14th Century, finished off half the European population. The deadly AIDS is but a harbinger of what is to come. If we persist in defending and justifying usury, we will not be morally fit to survive, nor shall we survive.

“Regarding the internal weaknesses of our economies, the main problem is the colonial structure of our production methods. Despite the wars of independence which were fought in the beginning of the last century, we continue to produce unprocessed raw materials for export. We escaped the Spaniards only to fall into the clutches of British free enterprise. . . .”

Harmony of Interests

Oct. 18, 1985: “I am an impassioned defender of the idea of progress that serves as the pillar of our Western civilization, an idea that is wisely expressed in the precept of Genesis: ‘Go forth and multiply, fill the Earth and subdue it.’ In these brief but profound words can be found an entire optimistic philosophy of life. Man, by virtue of being created in the image of God, possesses a creative mind which should be used to transform and expand the universe. Man is morally committed to bringing about technological advances that are a reflection of scientific progress. Each human being, if provided with the appropriate conditions of life and culture, with his activity and with his work increases the potential to sustain population.

“We should reflect on the fact that it is not only a question of trying to create jobs en masse, but that these new jobs should be more highly skilled than those which currently exist. Work should not merely meet the right of every human being to a job. Work should bring progress to both the economy and to the worker.”

Oct. 24, 1985: “As Pope John Paul II explained it so well, human labor is the activity through which man intervenes efficiently in the universe. Given that our biological existence



Jorge Carrillo: "It is necessary to bring about a policy of harmony of interests like that which Henry Carey, Abraham Lincoln's economic advisor, encouraged."

is ephemeral, it is only through what we bequeath to society in the arts, in politics, science or through daily activity in the factory, that can give eternity to our own existence."

Nov. 29, 1985: "It is necessary to bring about a policy of harmony of interests like that which Henry Carey, Abraham Lincoln's economic advisor, encouraged. Only an alliance for production among industrialists, farmers, and workers can defend the fundamental interest of the Republic."

Dec. 2, 1985: From a speech at the opening ceremony of the Council on Wages: "As Leibniz explained in the document 'Society and Economy,' there is an amount below which the quality of work deteriorates. In truth, cheap labor is not less costly labor. Cheap labor is less productive labor. To maintain and improve the buying capacity of lower-income workers is not simply an elemental matter of social justice, it is also healthy from the economic standpoint, so that our depressed markets can be revived. For democracy itself, it would be harmful if minimum-wage workers were forced to support painful and useless adjustment processes."

Dec. 7, 1985: "Within the orthodoxy of the free-trade doctrine, the minimum wage would constitute an aberration or imperfection of the market. If we were to follow those monetarist theories, we would have to eliminate the minimum wage and allow the forces of the market to 'freely' determine the price of the salary in accordance with supply and demand. If we were to listen to those voices, we would have to do away with the Basic Labor Code, which would also constitute a violation of market forces."

"In rejecting Marxist collectivism, there is no reason for us to wed ourselves to the arbitrariness that occurs and which is caused not so much by the capitalist system, in itself a driving force of industrial and scientific development, but rather by adherence to the principle of giving economic justification and validity to usury in all its forms."

The Crisis in Agriculture

Jan. 24, 1986: Speech at a testimonial dinner in his honor in Pasto (province of Narino):

"The national food problem consists of the fact that the great majority of our 29 million compatriots eat rice, potatoes, yucca, and bananas every day, while very few eat meat, milk, and eggs. Nationally, on the average, only one-fifth of the protein and 75% of the calories needed for good nutrition, are consumed.

"The bad national diet is a reflection of poor agricultural production. We must create the conditions for our peasants to be turned into farmers. In no other way can we increase productivity in the countryside. To work on little tracts of land, by pick and shovel methods, without access to modern technology, degrades human beings to the condition of beasts who carry out a repetitive activity from generation to generation, without having access to adequate standards of living and culture for the human species. You, the people of Narino, know this difficult situation very well.

"To establish what is necessary to do today in a correct program of agricultural production, we must start by estimating the quantity of meat, milk, and eggs which the population will need from now until the year 2000, to propose the great changes that must be realized in the countryside and in the related industrial base.

"In the short term, we must set up a livestock industry capable of producing four times as much meat, three times as much milk, and seven times as many eggs as are produced today. The key point to increase the production of animal protein is centered in rapidly increasing the cattle population and feeding it with a diet of high-grain content. We must double the number of head of cattle in the pasture lands and reduce the time of production of meat, since at present it takes up to three years to produce a piece of meat on the consumer's table. This time can be halved if the cattle are confined in fattening barns and fed a balanced, high-grain content diet.

"The per-hectare yield in cereals, both for human and animal consumption, must be doubled between now and 2000, and the land under cultivation must increase to about 20 times as much as now.

"A Colombian farmer in the year 2000 must develop the capacity to feed at least 11 citizens, instead of the two poorly fed ones of today. We must set as a goal that with the same economically active population working in agriculture as at present, the production and productivity shall be raised to the estimated levels. One million new jobs would be created in infrastructure building, provision of services in technical inputs, transport, warehousing and meat processing, as well as research and development activities for new agricultural technologies.

"To have an idea of the tremendous impact of the creation of new jobs in new industries, think about what it would mean to have to double the number of tractors in the fields and quintuple the production and supply of fertilizer."

“If we decide to defeat usury and impose the necessary unity between economics and morality, as was indicated by Josef Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, and ratified by the recent Synod in Rome, we could begin an era of real industrial growth and reaffirm our sovereignty in the face of the claims of certain international financial institutions which only suggest to us adjustments and cutbacks, and never back us in our great projects for growth. As I said on other occasions, only a grand alliance for production between industrialists, farmers, and urban and rural workers, can implement the task of turning Colombia into an agricultural and industrial power. The important thing is that we are already taking steps in that direction. . . .”

Unity Against Free Trade, Usury

March 28, 1986: Interview in *EIR*:

EIR: How do you view the prospects for continental unity among workers to address the problem of the foreign debt?

Carrillo: I have information that the problems affecting our nations are creating the miracle of uniting workers around a single purpose, from Mexico to Argentina. There is no doubt that this unity will become reality in short order, and that we are going to have an Ibero-American labor movement committed to battle for the survival of our people.

Nov. 15-17, 1986: Some 2,000 delegates from 44 trade unions, representing 80% of Colombia’s organized labor force, gathered in Bogota to consolidate a new non-partisan organization of labor, called the CUT. Its new president was former Labor Minister Carrillo. In his speech to that founding conference, he said:

“We are burdened with a foreign debt of about \$400 billion, a debt catalogued as unpayable because of its exorbitant growth, because of the economic oppression to which we are submitted, because of plundering by the multinational financial oligarchy. Each Latin American is a debtor owing a \$1,000 parcel of foreign debt, condemned to sacrifice his opportunities for improvement in order to pay debt service punctually. In the concrete case of Colombia, the cost of a family market basket has grown 30 times in the past 15 years.”

Alliance With LaRouche

May 6, 1999: Speech at an *EIR* conference entitled “In the Face of the Financial Collapse, the New NATO Threatens the World,” held in Bogota, Colombia:

“So, what is to be done? I remember that some nine years ago, I read the writings of Henry Carey, one of the economists who influenced Lyndon LaRouche. Carey said that for a country to move forward, a harmony of interests is

required, a community of interests among workers, growers, scientists, and industrialists. And he said that the moment that one of these sectors attempts to loot another sector, the one that ends up looting all the sectors is the speculative financial sector. That is what is happening in the world today, and it is very serious, so serious that the productive sector is moribund.

“The business sector cannot believe that it can get ahead by looting labor, paying less and less for its work, and thus shrinking its own domestic market. If we improve workers’ salaries, we are going to strengthen the internal market. If Colombia has more than 42 million people, how can we not have a great and strong domestic market?”

“Carey insisted that as long as one sector is thinking only about looting another, what happens is that someone comes from the outside and loots us all. Thus, the prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund are being applied, which insist that we must continue to privatize—or, better said, pirate. It is privatization that we are suffering at the hands of the multinationals. And it is double looting, because the income the country receives from these privatizations only serves to slightly relieve debt payment. It’s an exchange of assets for debt. If we were to put Carey’s teachings into practice, and bring about a harmony of interests among the businessman, the worker, the grower and the scientist, we could move our country forward. With this concept of harmony of interests, we should be able to create a movement that unifies the entire population against usury. The population does not feel represented by the political parties, nor by the elites, and much less by the governments which come into office with a popular vote and then do precisely the opposite of what they had promised.

“We should create a National Reconstruction Front, which would keep on growing as happened with the Army of Liberation during the era of the Independence. And this is a concept to be applied everywhere, not just in Colombia, so that the next century will be known as the humanist century. We have to bring about a new cultural renaissance to save humanity and prevent a return to barbarism. We cannot remain in the hands of these lunatics who are running NATO and the IMF, who believe that killing us every day by starvation and war is going to enable them to keep their empire going, with its feet of lead.

“As U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche and his wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche have proposed, it is time to establish a New Just International Economic Order, a New Bretton Woods. This is what I wanted to pass on to you this evening.”

‘No’ to Globalization

Sept. 24, 2004: Letter addressed to the congress of the democratic General Confederation of Workers:

“One of the effects of the globalization of usury was the global reduction of wages. It is said that U.S. workers, who had and still have the highest salaries, had to accept wage

cuts because, otherwise, U.S. companies would go to Mexico, where they wouldn't have to pay \$20/hour, but only \$1/hour. In Mexico, the assembly-line model was imposed, which is nothing other than producing for export, not to satisfy the needs of national consumption. But, at the same time, the Mexicans were told to take wage cuts or labor-intensive companies would move to China, where they could pay only 10 cents/hour.

“Of course, Colombia was no exception. Here, we had the 1992 ‘opening’: State companies were sold, exchange controls were eliminated, all import tariffs were lowered. The deficit generated, because the state rejected this tax, was covered by the value-added tax. Trade union activity today is much more difficult, because the greatest employment is in the informal sector, and because of the modalities of short-term hiring and the service contracts that are in vogue these days. The trade union movement is doing well to combat this terrible tendency toward a new slavery.

“The current debt of the national government with the foreign and Colombian banks is the cost of the ‘opening.’ That debt is a subsidy that the state gives to the bankers. In the speech given by President Alvaro Uribe Velez in Meta, he indicated that debt service today eats more than 40% of the national budget. In fact, payment of debt service is the only budget line that has grown; when the national and international bankers demand that the budget be cut back, they never think that the only sector of the budget that should be cut is precisely that one.

“Now, these usurers say that since, despite the budget cutbacks, despite more taxes, money does not suffice to meet debt-service payments, they propose that the state appropriate the pensions of the workers so that the state can pay debt service. I am certain that if one makes a detailed study of Colombia's domestic and foreign debt, one would conclude that that debt has been paid several times over, in the same way that all the UPAC and UVR users, over a period of 15 years, end up paying six or more times the value of the initial credit granted.

“Colombia and the world need a financial system that serves the real economy, which serves production, which serves a genuine exchange of goods and services, that guarantees an improvement of the people's standards of living and not the reverse, as is occurring now. A greedy financial system that destroys nations and population. The world is realizing that the current model no longer suffices, and that it is time for change, so that it is labor, technological innovation, real physical production, education, and the health of the population which is valued.

“The state cannot abandon health, education, nor infrastructure. The state has the obligation to direct the economy to continually improving the living standards of the population, because the objective of economy is not to enrich a few, but to sustain the human species under ever-improving conditions. The objective is the general welfare.”