

## Editorial

### *In defense of Jorge Carrillo*

Colombian death squads have placed on their list of targets for assassination the name of Jorge Carrillo, the former labor minister of Colombia, and an outstanding fighter for a new and just world economic order. The defense of Carrillo is in the interest, not only of the workers of Colombia, but of anyone who believes in the inalienable right all men and nations to economic progress and cultural and scientific advance.

Carrillo exemplifies the poet Friedrich Schiller's ideal of the patriot and world citizen: While working to raise the living standards of his own constituents—in collaboration with the industrialists of Colombia—he has participated in efforts on a global scale to defeat the usurious financial and economic policies of the International Monetary Fund and similar institutions.

It is this which has won him the fury of the international bankers' faction and allied drug mafias.

Carrillo was sworn in as labor minister on Sept. 2, 1985, in the last year of the government of President Belisario Betancur. He served until July 1986, when Betancur was replaced by Virgilio Barco. Carrillo was the first labor minister of Colombia who had actually been a worker. Before becoming labor minister, he was vice-president of the Colombian Workers Union (UTC) and president of the Workers Union of Bogota and Cundinamarca (Uraboc); after leaving the government, he became the head of the Unified Confederation of Workers (CUT), Colombia's new, and largest, trade-union federation.

During Carrillo's tenure at the labor ministry, the Betancur government achieved unprecedented labor peace, as well as real wage increases for the workforce, even in the face of massive efforts by the narco-terrorists to destabilize the country.

How was this achieved? Carrillo is known throughout Ibero-America as a proponent of the doctrine of "harmony of interests" between labor and industrial capital, as put forward in the writings of Abraham Lincoln's economic adviser, Henry Carey. This is the "American System" of political economy, virtually un-

known in the United States today—and certainly unknown to the leadership of the AFL-CIO and the Socialist International.

In his swearing-in ceremony at the presidential palace in Bogota in 1985, Carrillo stressed that he represented not only labor, but all Colombians who want to help build the nation. The key to his program would be great infrastructure projects, like the Atrato-Truandó interoceanic canal, railroads, highways, and ports. These projects would mobilize the resources of the country—including its unemployed workers—for the benefit of the region as a whole. "Only in the minds of a very few can a deadly confrontation between labor and capital be conceived," he said. "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."

Since the end of the Betancur administration in 1986, Carrillo has campaigned internationally in support of the "García solution" to the Third World debt crisis. Peruvian President García has limited payments on the debt to 10% of the nation's foreign-exchange earnings, in order to make sure that the development of the nation was not destroyed by usurious banking practices and the drug bankers.

These efforts have been strenuously countered by the U.S. State Department, the International Department of the AFL-CIO, and the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD). Not only have these institutions rejected Carrillo's policies, but they have also backed the minority of trade unionists in Colombia who are openly collaborating with the drug-running mafias.

Contrary to the State Department and company, Carrillo's program is in the interests of all Americans, North and South. The defense of Carrillo is a defense of Western civilization as a whole, against the zero-growthers, the malthusians, and the destabilizers of left and right.