

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."

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.

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."

“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