

vagaries of the oil price priced much of British coal out of the market, the inevitable shutdowns of coal pits were then made to appear as the cruel decision of a particular government, whereas actually the failure of British society *as a whole* to engage in technological progress was ultimately responsible. This is not meant to absolve the Thatcher government, which has done nothing to break this pattern.

The entrepreneur cannot, in Britain, expand his business from a shop-sized operation involving a few employees into a larger company: his "high-street" bank (the major commercial banks) will refuse to extend credit, on the grounds that it only funds consumer credit, and will rather advise the would-be captain of industry to turn to one of the City's merchant banks. The latter's Oxbridge manager will refuse, since such distinguished banks would not condescend to fund anything that small. However, if the gentleman were to be interested in having his company taken over by a larger one, an acquisition can be arranged—for a small fee.

Subjected to the dictates of strictly financial criteria, British industry—save a few national-security pockets of advanced industry—stagnates and fails to create skilled employment. The stage is set for class struggle, and the "credibility" of the Scargills and their opposite ideological numbers.

The trade unionists will remain faithful to such perceived "fighters for the workers' interest" as Arthur Scargill, as long as no productive alternative is provided.

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## Interview: Jorge Carrillo

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### A battle against usury

*The following interview with Colombian Labor Minister Jorge Carrillo Rojas was conducted on March 14 by Javier Almario in Bogota.*

**EIR:** For the first time in Colombia, the minister of labor is a labor leader. Why do you think President Belisario Betancur took this historic decision?

**Carrillo:** I believe that the most important thing is not having a labor leader as minister of labor, but rather, than *this* labor leader, as labor minister, is interpreting and carrying out the long-held desires of the working class. I think this is what moved the President to designate me as minister of labor. He knows the Colombian labor movement very well, having participated in its struggles and its hopes. He believed it appropriate that some changes to strengthen that labor movement be carried out in his last year of government.

**EIR:** You have frequently proposed a labor-industry alliance for production that would take as its foundation the fight against usury. How is this proposal faring?

**Carrillo:** I have presented this proposal in different business forums and in numerous union meetings, and it has had the greatest reception. Today I received a letter from the businessmen of Valle del Cauca, in which they insist that a seminar be held there, in which business and labor could participate, on the subject of the "harmony of interest" between them. Thus, this proposal has moved forward rapidly, and I am convinced that once concretized, the country will advance. . . .

The problem at this time is the decision that governments must take in defense of the lives of their citizens. If they continue to defend usury, to bow before the financial institutions that promote usury, ignoring man as the fundamental element in society, then the republics and democracies of the West are in serious trouble. Therefore, a great turnaround in the world economy is necessary. Why not, therefore, design new financial institutions that take into account the important precept that man comes first and that usury is a disturbing element in relations among human beings?

**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 peoples.

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