that, Desmond Tutu in 1984 and Lech Walesa in 1983 and Andrei Sakharov in 1975 and Martin Luther King in 1964, Mr. Morejon Almagro at this time deserves the Nobel Peace Prize. He represents, Mr. Speaker, an entire new generation of Cubans which is fighting from within the totalitarian nation to achieve freedom and the reestablishment of democracy. That is why Castro fears Leonel so much.

By awarding him the Nobel Peace Prize, not only would the great work of Mr. Morejon Almagro be duly recognized, in this way hopefully contributing to his physical protection at this extraordinarily difficult time of political imprisonment, but also the important work of the entire internal opposition in Cuba would be honored. The importance of all who risk their lives by being members of Concilio Cubano as well as the rest of the internal opposition and the independent journalists in Cuba would all be recognized by the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Leonel Morejon Almagro.

With regard to the independent press, Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago, perhaps the most well known independent journalist in Cuba, Rafael Solana, was put on an airplane and expelled, sent to Madrid where he very reluctantly arrived, vowing to continue his work and of course to return as soon as Cuba is free.

Olance Nogreras, another well-known independent journalist, was picked up just hours ago by State Security. The repression is intensifying in an extraordinary manner within Cuba.

We must fight and with this nomination of Leonel Morejon Almagro for the Nobel Peace Prize, we are fighting against the great conspiracy of silence that exists in the international community against the Cuban tragedy, Mr. Speaker. This conspiracy of silence will be grasped in all its magnitude only when Castro is history and all the political prisons are opened.

The true story of the Cuban tragedy is really not being focused upon. Humberto Real, a Cuban patriot, has been sentenced to death by the dictatorship in the last weeks but the Cuban people continue to struggle.

That is why I am proud of my colleagues who joined me in signing this letter today in nomination of Mr. Morejon Almagro for the Nobel Peace Prize, and of course our struggle will continue because it is very just and necessary.

□ 2230

## ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR FAMILIES

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as has been mentioned earlier by our colleagues, on Saturday, the Children's Defense Fund will hold a Stand for Children event where people from all over the country will be traveling to Washington to participate. I, myself, am proud to say that from San Francisco and from all over California, indeed, we will have a very large contingent participating.

That stand for children is one that we must make every day of the year in the Congress of the United States. As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health, Human Services and Education, I have been actually bowled over by the size of the cuts in the budget for children's initiatives that had been put forth both last year and which we anticipate because of the budget resolution allocations to come down this year.

I rise tonight, Mr. Speaker, to talk not just about children, but the families that they live in, because when we talk abut children, we not only talk about their health, education, and well-being, but we also talk about the economic security of their families. We talked about this last week when we made the fight successfully to increase the minimum wage, dragging this House kicking and screaming to a place where we could hold our head up a littler higher to pay fair wages to the American worker.

But also part of the economic security of American families are the issues of Medicare and Medicaid, which once again take severe cuts in the budget proposal that passed the House tonight. That is why our colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. MARTIN SABO, put forth a motion to instruct. His motion to instruct was for us to instruct conferees to accept the higher discretionary levels in the Senate bill in order to avoid another government shutdown; to accept the higher levels in the Senate bill. He is talking about the Domenici numbers, Republican numbers in the Senate side. Even the Senate Republicans reject the severe cuts that are being proposed on the House side.

Another part of the Sabo motion to instruct was to retain protection for seniors against excess charges by health care providers in Medicare and also to retain Federal standards for nursing homes. Of course, and sadly, our Republican colleagues voted down this motion to instruct to agree to the Republican Senate numbers and, instead, to retain the House severe cuts.

The budget resolution allocations have created the same basic conflict that led to two Government shutdowns and 13 continuing resolutions in the battle over 1996 spending. Why would we want to do that again?

In regard to protecting health care for seniors, the House version of the budget resolution retains essentially the same Medicare policies that were vetoed by President Clinton in the reconciliation bill. Further, the House budget resolution does not protect seniors from the draconian Medicaid policies that were passed in the House last year.

I would like to review, Mr. Speaker, some of the provisions that we are fighting. The Republican record on senior citizens in the 104th Congress includes eliminating doctor and hospital choice by forcing seniors into Medicare managed-care plans. The GOP plan would allow doctors to charge extra out-of-pocket costs to seniors who remain in Medicare fee-for-service. The GOP plan would severely cut Medicare and Medicaid hospital funding, forcing many to close their doors on seniors. And the Republican plan would eliminate coverage guaranteed for over 4 million elderly Americans who need nursing home care. The Republican plan further erodes Medicare solvency by creating wealth-healthy plans, leaving many seniors with higher costs and less care.

Does this sound familiar? We fought this fight last year. The Democrats in the Congress and the President of the United States stood firm against this assault on the economic and personal security of America's seniors and, therefore, America's families.

The Democrats prevented the Republicans last year from doubling Medicare part B premiums, from attempting to eliminate doctor choice, from cutting Medicare premium assistance for low-income seniors, from repealing Federal nursing home quality standards and putting homes and family farms of elderly couples at risk for nursing home care, and we kept them from forcing adult children to be financially liable for their parents' nursing home bills.

This is important because all of the seniors that we talk about have contributed to the strength and the success of our country. How many times have we seen our colleagues come to the floor, including this evening, sing the praises and the contributions that have been made by various senior citizens in their districts and turn right around and cut Medicare and Medicaid to assist those seniors in their older years?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pay close attention and the American people to pay close attention to these cuts which will affect their lives very directly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MILLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MILLER of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

## WELFARE BILL THEATRICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the theatrics in which the majority leader engaged in the few minutes before the closing of this Congress tonight again provide America an indication of what is wrong with this Congress.

The majority leader, you will remember, outlined a schedule for next week, and he conveniently omitted one piece of legislation from that schedule. This particular bill will be considered on a day when most of the Members of Congress are not present here in Washington. This particular bill will be considered under a procedure that limits debate to 40 minutes, with no amendments, and it can be actually defeated by one-third of the Members of this body.

This bill, the majority leader finally conceded, has not yet even been written, much less discussed and considered by a committee in Congress and presented to the American people for their debate, which is the normal approach in a democratic society.

Now, this particular bill is not a bill to name a post office in Podunkville after DICK ARMEY or to declare National Apple Pie Week. No, this particular bill deals with a subject that most Americans are concerned about, and that is our welfare system. It is a welfare system that is broke, that is not working for the taxpayer, quite clearly, but it is also not working for the people that it is designed to benefit.

I know that those of us on the Democratic side, from our unanimous vote in the last session of this Congress, expressed our view that we want to place an importance in welfare reform on work, on the value of work, on teaching the value of work, on helping families that have been torn apart get back into the work force and provide for their families. But if anyone would have thought we would deal with such a serious matter with the kind of stunt that we saw tonight, the notion that this Congress would take up a matter of such importance without any real debate, without the Members even knowing what was in the bill.

We did have one gentleman who thought he knew something about the bill. We learned that there were 97 line item vetoes by the Governor of Wisconsin in this bill. Under the debate procedure, we will have less than 30 seconds per line item veto to consider this.

One would think that this is, as I asked the majority leader, just another example of his very strange sense of humor; that this stunt is all a joke. But one who thought that would not have observed the way this Congress has been conducted for the last year and a half, for it has been one stunt after another like this that has created the greatest failure of any Congress in recent American history.

It all started last year when these Republicans decided that they were going to provide a tax break for the richest members of our society and make those who were now on Medicare pay for it. And so they set up a series of secret task forces, and those forces were out there figuring out how much more they could hike premiums, how much more they could increase the cost of health care for our seniors, all to provide tax brakes for those at the top of the economic ladder. And they did it all in secret, and then they came out here and presented it as essentially a ''take it or leave it'' plan, originally to our Committee on the Budget and finally to the House.

It is the same kind of extremism that caused this Government to be shut down last year for weeks at a cost of $1.5 billion. Frittered away. Totally and completely wasted American taxpayer money by these folks in their Government shutdown fever.

It is the kind of political theatrics that instead of coming in a sensible bipartisan moderate way to see how we change this welfare system and make it work and change this Medicare system and make it work better.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOGGETT. I will not yield at this time. Perhaps at the conclusion of my remarks.

Mr. KINGSTON. I will be happy to yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the gentleman for his comment. In fact, what I would like to do is to have an opportunity to yield and discuss and debate at length this whole subject of welfare reform instead of handling it in the same shabby way that the Republicans did Medicare reform last year, which was designed to provide those tax breaks for the people at the top of the economic ladder and make those people on Medicare bear the cost of those tax breaks.

Now we are going to approach this other tough issue in our society that needs to be attacked in a bipartisan way to try to get at the heart of making welfare work and making it work fair, but to do it in this kind of fashion, when even the Republican Members do not know what is in their bill, is the kind of extremist approach that America has rejected.

I think that it is time for this Congress to get down to business in a true Democratic spirit, not in terms of party but in terms of a process that does not come around with the kind of arrogance that we have seen here tonight, of saying we will present you something and you can take it or leave it, because that kind of approach is not going to produce any legislation.

That is why this Congress has nothing to show but political rhetoric and nonsense and wasted taxpayer money for most of the last year and a half, because these folks have not been interested in trying in craft legislation in a bipartisan way to deal with the true problems of this country. They have been interested in scoring political points.

They do not care next week whether one welfare mom goes back to work, because they are not interested in jobs for welfare moms. They are interested in protecting their own political job, and America is going to see through this kind of nonsense.

## REQUEST OF PRESIDENT TO USE STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND DAVIS-BACON ACT FOR REBUILDING EFFORT IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. LUCAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Georgia a few seconds.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding.

Had the gentleman from Texas yielded, what I wanted to point out is that the Republican Party, acting in a spirit of bipartisanship, is taking the President of the United States at his word on the Wisconsin waiver and we are going to have that bill on the floor of the House.

I am surprised, as I listen to these Democrats, that they are against it because it was President Clinton's idea. I wanted to make sure that folks know we are doing exactly what President Clinton called for and that no Democrats have expressed any outrage until suddenly tonight.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. LUCAS Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman's point is well taken.

Mr. Speaker, on July 27, 1995, President Clinton signed Public Law 104–19 which appropriated $39 million in Community Development Block Grants [CDBG] to assist citizens of Oklahoma City with meeting the financial hardships created by the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building. This truly was the proper Federal response to a presidentially-mandated national emergency. Never before had Congress passed, and the President signed, legislation utilizing CDBG funds in this manner. An act of terror of this magnitude forces all of us to reflect on the standard operating procedures under which we, as a government, react to national emergencies. At this time, I am asking the President and the rest of the Federal Government to diligently reflect on how best we can restore Oklahoma City to where it was before 9:02 a.m. of that fateful day.

Mr. Speaker, as millions of people around the Nation joined the city of Oklahoma City on April 19 to remember those killed and injured in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building, they may have noticed the number of buildings that remain as damaged today as they were immediately following this tragic event.

On April 17 of this year, I sent a letter to President Clinton pointing out that there are major obstacles to fully utilizing the CDBG funds in the rebuilding effort and asking for his assistance in freeing up these funds to rebuild Oklahoma City. Specifically, I asked that he use his statutory authority to suspend the Davis-Bacon Act for these funds. It is my belief that in a unique situation such as what occurred in Oklahoma City, this authority