

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.

Olanca 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.

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#### 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 Fran-

cisco 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 about 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 in-

cludes 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 THEATRICALS

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.