Here's The First Portion Of The Fiscal Cliff "Plan B" That Just Barely Passed The House

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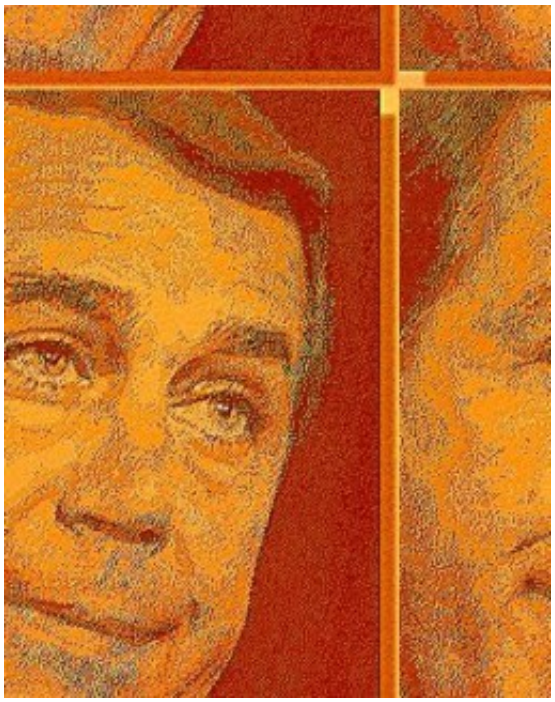

[Reader's note: ***All in-text hyperlinks*** in this post (if any) are not links I have attached to the post. They are malware infesting the internet. Don't click them. They are spam. I'm trying to learn how to remove this problem from my site, but until then, please note that all ***my legitimate links are in the form of footnotes only***, listed at the bottom of the post. I'm working on a fix to these sneaky hyperlinks. Thanks! Mike]

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By Michael Matthew Bloomer, Dec. 20, 2012.

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Out of sync[/caption]

An hour ago the House passed H.R. 6684, the Spending Reduction Act of 2012[1. *Text of* H.R. 6684, GPO, Introd. Rep. Eric Cantor, Dec. 19, 2012.], by a photo finish vote of 215-209. The bill which now goes to the Senate replaces the defense-related cuts required by the mandatory sequester that would result from a failure to reach an agreement on taxes by January 1, 2013. Introduced yesterday by House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA), the bill passed earlier today adds cuts to replace those sequestration defense cuts with, among other items,

- cuts to food stamp programs,
- Medicaid,
- employment training programs,
- and termination of the Home Affordable Modification Program.

Also, the bill hampers the Affordable Care Act's health benefits exchange efforts by repealing mandatory funding to states intended to assist them with creating exchanges. Another section repeals the Prevention and Public Health Fund. They never give up their efforts to repeal the ACA through the back door.

The long and the short of this indicates a weakening of the Republican block in the House. Twenty- one Republicans voted against the bill, some because they didn't think it went far enough, others because they thought it too drastic.

Speaker Boehner's control of his difficult and uncompromising caucus is poor, and will be tested to the utmost with the next vote on his "Plan B" tax reform and revenue raising proposals.[2. In One Picture : Boehner's Risky "Plan B" Fiscal Cliff Gambit Could Cost Him The Speakership, Michael Matthew Bloomer, They Will Say ANYTHING!, Dec. 20, 23012.] With the vote on H.R. 6684 so close, will Boehner whip up enough GOP votes to push his more controversial Plan B through? Will he go down in flames? If it passes the House it'll be by a few votes, or less.

Watch for the vote later tonight!

UPDATE, 8:20 pm: Speaker of the House John Boehner could not whip up a GOP frenzy in support of his Plan B proposal and took the extremely humiliating step (for a Speaker) of pulling the bill off the floor without a vote. He then adjourned the House until after Christmas. Tea Partier Majority Leader Eric Cantor, who covets the Speakership, must be skipping and trilling![2. *'Plan* B' Vote Postponed In House, Michael McAuliff and Arthur Delaney, Huffington Post, Dec. 20, 2012.]