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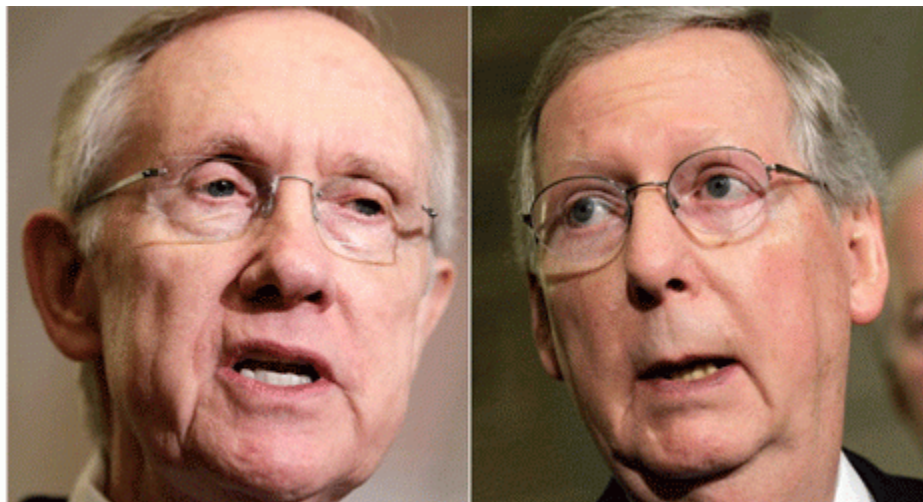
January 03, 2013

Senate Had 3 Minutes to Read Fiscal Cliff Bill

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Senators Got 154-Page 'Fiscal Cliff' Bill 3 Minutes Before Voting on It

By *Matt Cover*

(CNSNews.com) – The U.S. Senate voted 89-8 to approve legislation to avoid the fiscal cliff despite having only 3 minutes to read the 154-page bill and budget score.

Multiple Senate sources have confirmed to CNSNews.com that senators received the bill at approximately 1:36 AM on Jan. 1, 2013 – a mere three minutes before they voted to approve it at 1:39 AM.

The bill is 154-pages and includes several provisions that are unrelated to the fiscal cliff, including repealing a section of ObamaCare, extending the wind-energy tax credit, and a rum tax subsidy deal for Puerto Rican rum makers.

The bill avoids the fiscal cliff by making permanent the Bush tax cuts for individuals making less than \$400,000 per year and couples making less than \$450,000 and by putting off the automatic spending cuts (sequestration) from last year's debt ceiling deal until March.