

Summary of Question Period for Mar. 02/17

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Date: Thu, 02 Mar 2017 12:07:21 -0500
Attachments: Q.P. SummaryMar02-17.doc (60.42 kB); 20170302 - Provincial Legislature Question Period Transcript.doc (112.13 kB)

Please have a look at the select and full summaries of today's legislative Q. P.

MPP Brown (PC) to the Premier and Minister Thibeault – re: mention of executive salaries

>> Patrick Brown: My question is for the **Premier**. This scheme is simply robbing Peter to pay Paul. But both Peter and Paul are taxpayers. Paul may pay less next month. Peter may apay 1.83 billion dollars a year for decades to come because of this mistake. Because of these mistakes of this government. Mr. Speaker, is the scheme about making all of Ontario pay more in interest payments simply to save this government politically in the short term. It absolutely is, Mr. Speaker.

>> **Premier Wynne**: Mr. Speaker, the schemes we're bringing in which will spread the cost of assets and investments that that have made that were absolutely necessary to upgrade the system, we're going to spread those over a 30-year period. That will be about 25 billion dollars over the 30 years. Again, we need to deal with the numbers that are real. That is the number, Mr. Speaker. We're doing this because people need relief right now. The investments that have been made were necessary, Mr. Speaker. Having clean energy is necessary. Having clean air is necessary. We're not backing away from those decisions. We're saying people need to pay now but they also need to pay into the future. There needs to be a sharing of those costs over a longer period of time. That's fair, Mr. Speaker. THAs why our plan is being brought forward.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the **Premier**, this is simply another Liberal shell game. We saw it in the fall with Liberal hydro plan number 17 where they shifted the clean energy rebate with the hst. It's another shell game. It's ship. This government is not getting at the root cause. I'll ask again. Why does this government not -- I understand why the government doesn't want to hear this. It's not in their self-interest. But the reality is these bad contracts, they're not looking at. They're still proceeding tomorrow with more bad contracts. When you have this massive surplus, what we're giving away to our competitors in the United States, I can't understand why they're going ahead tomorrow with more bad contracts. The **Premier** said this morning she made a mistake. She's making more mistakes tomorrow. How can you really be remorseful when you're going to do the same thing tomorrow? Do the right thing. Stop signing these bad deals and actually help ratepayers. That's what you need to do.

>> **Premier Wynne**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Really helping ratepayers

is exactly what we're doing. Mr. Speaker, I will be very honest with everyone in this House and in Ontario. We looked at everything. We looked -- We looked at every possibility. Mr. Speaker, you know the notion of renegotiating contracts was something that we absolutely looked at. The reality is, Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of contracts. To renegotiate every one of those first of all would be incredibly expensive. Secondly, would take an enormous amount of time. And finally, Mr. Speaker, as someone said to me, why don't you just legislate the cancellation of those contracts. That would put a chill on doing business with Ontario for decades to come. So the reality is we were not going down that path.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the Premier. I hope in this Liberal hydro announcement they would have at least said maybe they don't have the courage to look at the bad contracts because they're friends. They're donors. But I would have hoped they would have said on Friday, tomorrow, they're not going to sign more. They're still proceeding. The government doesn't want to look at the bad contracts. **Will they at least rein in the executive salaries. There's nothing about the offensive executive salaries. We pay sometimes 10 times for executives that other provinces do. If you're not looking at bad contracts, can you at least look at the 4 million dollar salaries?**

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are reducing rates by 25% for every ratepayer in this province. I don't know why the leader of the opposition can't hear that, Mr. Speaker. So let me say it again. 25% for every ratepayer in this province, Mr. Speaker. Our plan provides fast substantial and widespread and long lasting relief. The PCs, they're struggling to agree with one another on their own schemes. On their biggest idea of ripping up the energy contracts, let me be clear, this will lead to increased rates, lawsuits and penalties. Even the leader of the opposition's own energy critic noted. Yesterday what did he say on radio in Ottawa. This will come at a huge cost to taxpayers and will see prices grow.