

TRANSCRIPT – Peter Tabuns on CP24 with Stephen LeDrew – May 24, 2017

MPP: Peter Tabuns

Media: Stephen LeDrew (CP24)

[START TRANSCRIPT]

LeDrew: Peter Tabuns is the NDP energy critic, he joins me right now. Clearly, I mean, on one hand you were delighted in this report. Because it shows that the government was, once again, stretching it and charging—well, it was going to be charging the people—

Tabuns:

- Yeah

LeDrew: --an extraordinary amount of money.

Tabuns:

- It's quite a disturbing report, I mean, first—

LeDrew: yeah, you know—pol-, politically you're glad, I guess but it is disturbing.

Tabuns:

- Well
- Yeah, but Stephen—I live in this province

LeDrew: yeah.

Tabuns:

- And, frankly, if what he's projecting is correct, I think it's going to be a tougher province to live-in in the years to come
- First of all, everyone should realize that this is setting us up for soaring rates 4 years from now, right?

LeDrew: yeah.

Tabuns:

- We're going to have a short-term relief and then the bills are going to go up closer to 7 percent a year
- And that's not counting any other factor
- The other thing is—and you've just said it—we're very fearful to find the, the risk, the financial risk that we're looking at here
- This is an incredibly cynical plan that's been brought forward
- The Financial Accountability Officer did an excellent job at, at getting into that plan and showing what the dangers were, what the risks were

- Everybody in this province is having a tough time with higher rates
- And people should be trying to figure out how to deal with it
- That's why the NDP came forward with its plan
- You can see it on our website
- We're all trying to grapple with it
- But this is a cynical plan that is oing to blow up in Ontario

LeDrew: do you think the government, the Liberal party, knew about this fact that was brought out this morning and just tried to, you know, obfuscate it, tried to hide it?

Tabuns:

- Yeah!

LeDrew: or are they just wrong?

Tabuns:

- No, they knew what was going on
- There was that leaked document—what was it, a week—

LeDrew: yeah.

Tabuns:

- --little over a week ago—

LeDrew: 2 weeks ago, yes.

Tabuns:

- Yeah, so they, they knew that the prices were going to go down for a while and then they were going to shoot up and then we'd have this big overhang of debt for decades!
- Decades!

LeDrew: as a politician, how do you judge them in the sense that they are pulling out this plan saying, 'well, we're going to give you some short-term relief but it's going to cost you more'. I mean, do people buy that baloney?

Tabuns:

- I don't think that they do
- I mean, this is an extraordinarily cynical government—let's be very clear about this
- The—

LeDrew: the Premier doesn't come across as cynical, she comes across as cynical—

Tabuns:

- No, she doesn't—

LeDrew: --she comes across as a well-meaning woman.

Tabuns:

- And, and she—

LeDrew: and then the government comes up with this stuff, you know, that's just—

Tabuns:

- Well, she is the government
- Let's face facts
- And she can present very well
- But this is a very cynical ploy and I think people will see through it
- I—when I talk to people and I explain that 4 years from now, the bills are going to shoot up again, they get very disturbed
- They don't want the bills to shoot up
- They need the relief, but they don't want to be in the situation where a few years from now and suddenly their bills are going through the roof again—and much worse than it is now

LeDrew: so the, the whole plan to bring forth this action that the government wants to do to reduce electrical bills for the next year—that's a piece of legislation. And where is that now, because it was brought in about 2 weeks ago, wasn't it?

Tabuns:

- It was, but we have something in the legislature called time allocation
- So the government has set deadlines—they're jamming it through
- We're having committee hearings this week
- Next week we're going to go to third reading—it's going to be done before the break, June 1st

LeDrew: so you can't, you know, through parliamentary rule—

Tabuns:

- *laughter*

LeDrew: --maneuver this around and delay this vote.

Tabuns:

- Naw, naw *laughter* they, they, they really put a straitjacket on the legislature
- They made sure they could jam it through in a very short number of days
- We debated it a few—for a few—hours and when we get through the committee process where we're supposed to amend it—

LeDrew: right.

Tabuns:

- --and I don't think there'll be much amending
- I think we've got about an hour debate total for the bill
- And, again, 45 billion dollars—a big debt that Ontario's going to take on, that people are going to have stuck on their hydro bills for decades—you have 2 weeks debate?
- Really?
- Seriously?
- Come on!

LeDrew: that's all you want because it's quite clear what the whole plan is—

Tabuns:

- *laughter*

LeDrew: --I mean, what you're saying by debate, you're saying, 'well, we'd like to stop it'. But, I mean, what are you going to debate? You know what they're going to be doing with it.

Tabuns:

- Yeah

LeDrew: you know what's going to happen—

Tabuns:

- But, but, but I think the people of Ontario deserve to have a say when you have a big decision like this
- I mean, this is not a small thing—we're not talking about a dog park
- We're talking about big bucks that are going to shape the economy for decades
- And, yeah, you're right—for, for their purposes, the quicker the better, less discussion, less awareness—they're happy

LeDrew: there's the quote. Peter Tabuns—'dog park'. OK, lovely chatting with you! OK, thanks very much.

Tabuns:

- *laughter*
- Thanks very much, Stephen

[END TRANSCRIPT]