

Hansard: Brown to Naqvi (Duguid) -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the government House leader. I'm going to quote the head of Ontario public service employees union, Mr. Smoky Thomas. He said -- and it's important the government actually listens to this. He said bill 132 is terrible, terrible legislation, and I urge you to stop it. Mr. Speaker, will the government do just that? Will they stop their \$93 billion unfair hydro scheme?

>>Minitser Naqvi: Well, Speaker, our objective on this side of the House is to cut hydro rates for hard working Ontarians, Speaker. And that is why our government and the leadership of our **Premier** is focused on cutting the hydro rates by 25%. Now of course, Speaker, from the opposite side, we have heard that they have had no plan whatsoever when it comes to energy. They kept talking about they're going to have a hydro plan. They're going to keep telling Ontarians somehow they will be able to magically cut hydro rates for Ontarians but we have seen no plan whatsoever. Speaker, what we have done through the fair hydro plan act is put forward a concrete plan by which hydro rates will be cut by 25%. And the only reasonable and sensible thing for the opposition to do. Is to support that plan, to support that legislation so that Ontarians can have the relief they deserve so much.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the government House leader. I know why the Liberals' favourite pastime is attacking the nonpartisan independent watchdogs are seen auditor general. She too has had an interesting comment I'd like to share. She said -- we would recommend the government reconsider this bill 132. Mr. Speaker, I'll give the government another chance to take the a.g.'s advice. We've got civil service workers saying this is a big problem. You've got the auditor general saying it's a big problem. Ontarians are concerned their bills are going to skyrocket because of this. Will you do the right thing? Take the a.g.'s advice and reconsider this unfair hydro scheme?

>>Minister Duguid: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the leader of the opposition said something that I think was historic in this legislature. He actually made a policy declaration. What he said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, is I will not invest in energy infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, we've heard that line before and we saw the impact of not investing in energy infrastructure. My parents and Ernie Eves said exactly the same thing and, Mr. Speaker, they did exactly the same thing. They had no plan to invest in energy infrastructure and they left the energy system in a mess, Mr. Speaker. Not only do we have a clean and reliable energy -- Mr. Speaker, not only do we have a clean reliable energy system. We're moving now to make that system more affordable for everyday Ontarians by reducing costs by 25%. The leader the opposition won't support that either.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the government House leader. The Minister 's right, I will not invest in bad Liberal contracts. It's not right. The people of Ontario are paying too much

because of these bad contracts. The Liberals have benefitted too long and it's hurt the people. So let's hear another assessment on this unfair hydro scheme. Cupe's Fred Hann made interesting comments about bill 132. He said the following to this government -- I want you to know the people of Ontario will not be fooled. They were members in the long-term what you have done to mess up our look tristy future in the province of Ontario. The unfair hydro scheme will not fool anyone. Hydro rates are going to skyrocket. Every independent assessment says that very clearly. We can't afford our hydro bills. It's not right. Mr. Speaker, one more chance for the government House leader to come clean and say this is going to cause hydro rates to spike and we're going to stop it.

>>Minister Duguid: If the member really believed what he just said, he wouldn't have started out his question period talking about rubber ducks, Mr. Speaker. The fact is you want to talk about ducking, Mr. Speaker, let's talk about ducking questions on sex Ed. Let's talk about ducking questions on the carbon tax. Let's talk about ducking questions on the energy plan that we're still waiting to hear, Mr. Speaker. All he does is duck every time anybody asks him a question on the energy plan. Let's talk about ducking questions about your own caucus members. Let's talk about ducking questions, Mr. Speaker, about just about anything of substantive policy. Mr. Speaker, we're moving forward with a clean reliable energy plan that's going to ensure it's more affordable for everyday Ontarians. We're proud of that plan. No wonder you don't want Ontarians to know about it, Mr. Speaker. That might be bad policy for you. But it's good for the people of Ontario. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

N.B.: Transcripts are captured by a closed captioning system and may contain errors.