

Hansard: Brown to Premier -- Hydro 25% Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the **Premier**. I was reading the "Globe and mail" editorial, and it -- I'm going to share with you what that editorial said. According to the **Premier's energy plan**, she isn't 15 electricity mess. System costs created by a decade of poor choices and mismanagement of the province's power system. She's simply rigging consumers' bills during an election year. So, Mr. Speaker, my question for the **Premier**, this isn't about fixing the structural challenges. Is it just about what we all know it is, your own political survival?

>> **Premier Wynne**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What our fair hydro plan is about is taking a burden off people's electricity bills all around the province, Mr. Speaker. It's about making sure that people see on average a 25% reduction, Mr. Speaker. People who are having trouble paying their rent, who are having trouble looking after their families, Mr. Speaker, making sure that they - - That they need soon, Mr. Speaker, that they have it that it's practical, Mr. Speaker, and that it's adequate. That's what our fair hydro plan is about, Mr. Speaker.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the **Premier** and again from this "Globe and mail" editorial, they said this scheme is nothing more than I quote a Liberal **Premier** has stepped -- Mr. Speaker, obviously this is a sensitive topic for the Liberal government. The "Globe and mail" editorial said a Liberal **Premier** has found yet another way to make Ontario pay more for electricity but this one is selling it as an act of being a thoughtful government coming to the aid of families. And that is exactly why I have written the financial accountability officer asking for open and transparent and honest accounting of what this is going to confound Ontario and if the government numbers are actually accurate. Mr. Speaker, the truth will come out eventually. Just how much debt is going to be saddled on the generation of our --

>> **Premier Wynne**: I'm glad to say the office of the financial accountability officer was briefed last week, Mr. Speaker. So we're very happy to have the F.A.O. Get the information that he needs about the breach and we will continue to work with him. In fact as the leader of the opposition knows we actually expanded the purview of the financial accountability officer so that he could get all of the information that he wanted. So we're happy to do that. Mr. Speaker, this plan is about giving people relief on their electricity bills. It's about spreading out costs over a longer period of time, Mr. Speaker, costs that have been incurred through investments in a system that was degraded, Mr. Speaker, that had to be upgraded, that was, you know, susceptible to Brownouts and blackouts when we came into office under the previous **Premier**, Mr. Speaker. We've made the investment. We have a clean reliable electricity grid.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the **Premier**. The "Globe and mail" placed the blame where it belongs. I quote from the "Globe and mail" -- the blame for this falls squarely on consecutive Liberal governments of former **Premier Dalton McGuinty** and his successor of the **Premier** of Ontario today in power since 2003. Their mismanagement of Ontario's power system has LED today. That's their mismanagement and now the Liberal government to pay for their mistakes, for

their mismanagement, it's going to cost \$25 billion of additional interest costs. But, Mr. Speaker, we've seen the Liberal math before and how it doesn't add up and how it seems to be something different afterwards. Just look at the gas plants. It was supposed to cost a cup of coffee, and then it was \$40 million and then costs skyrocketed. Their numbers historically. Do not add up. My question, Mr. Speaker, given the fact their math hasn't added up before, can we have the guarantee of the **Premier** they will not block any information, be shared with the financial accountability officer?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Speaker, we've already provided the technical briefing -- Of the F.A.O.. We are happy for the financial accountability officer to have the information that is available to his office already. It's already there, Mr. Speaker. So we'll continue to work with him. But, Mr. Speaker, underlying the question of the leader of the opposition is an assumption that, had they had the opportunity, they would -- They would not have upgraded the system, would not have cleaned the electricity grid, Mr. Speaker. We've taken the responsible path. We know that the costs people are being asked to pay -- Over a longer period of time. 25% reduction on average, Mr. Speaker. That's what we're moving forward with.

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