

Hansard: Brown to Thibeault -- Electricity Deal Quebec

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Date: Mon, 25 Sep 2017 10:56:19 -0400

INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of energy. Last week the government charged ahead with more contracts for power we do not need. The famous fit by contracts were signed. The most unnecessary fifth sequel since Miami five, signed it Miami beach. An unnecessary movie just like these unnecessary contracts. Mr. Speaker, they are the same contracts the Liberals pushed forward on the day after their unfair hydro plans. 390 contracts signed, sealed and delivered. 150 megawatts of power Ontario doesn't need. Mr. Speaker, why does the government, why do the Liberals keep on signing contracts for power we do not need?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Always happy to answer those questions. If we're talking about movies, Mr. Speaker, it's like "Groundhog day" on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. We get it over and over again from a party that has no idea on the electricity system, Mr. Speaker. Maybe what the opposition leader needs to do, Mr. Speaker, is listen to his critics. On two, Mr. Speaker, talking to Steve Paikin, they talked about signing new contracts so the tweet saying she sound -- sign 9 next round of energy contracts tomorrow is inaccurate? Yeah ok. I'll say that's inaccurate. That's from the energy critic, Mr. Speaker. He doesn't even understand the process. When we're talking about fit five contracts, Mr. Speaker, these were from November 2016, Mr. Speaker. There's nothing new here. Just like groundhog day, Mr. Speaker, they have nothing to do but light their hair on fire and run from issue to issue, Mr. Speaker.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, back to the Minister. The Premier's famous for her so-called conversations. These conversations tend to cost Ontario millions and millions, sometimes billions of dollars. Her latest conversation seems to have promised the opposition party in Québec a significant deal. According to the leader, the Premier committed to building hydro dams in Québec for even more power Ontario doesn't need. The Premier of course denies that, Speaker, deal. But, Mr. Speaker, maybe the Liberals want to come clean because we keep on having new contracts for hydro we don't need. Now there's this report in the newspapers in Québec about this new secret deal. Are the Liberals in negotiations for more power from Québec that we do not need? Will the government come clean?

>> Minister Thibeault: Mr. Speaker, the Premier, myself have been crystal clear, Mr. Speaker. There's no new contract with Québec. But, Mr. Speaker, the opposition keeps bringing it up with no facts, Mr. Speaker, and that's part of the whole problem when it comes to the opposition making things up, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact is our government has clearly stated -- Our government has clearly stated our goals for Ontario's electricity system, which is clean, efficient and above all, Mr. Speaker, affordable energy. We will not consider any deals that do not meet these goals, Mr. Speaker, whether it's many ports from Québec or generation here at home. So while he continues to read tweets from an opposition party in Québec or tweet from Donald Trump you know what, Mr. Speaker? There is no coal coming in here, Mr. Speaker. We're going to make sure that our system is clean. Green, reliable and affordable, Mr. Speaker. Just like our plan says --

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the Minister of energy and talk about groundhog day. This is a government that will say anything regardless of reality. They will say anything regardless of the facts. The Premier of Québec called the C.A.Q.'s announcement very worrisome. He said it was a major mistake. The

Premier of Québec may have had different reasons to be concerned but I too find the deal worrisome. I know the Minister of energy saying the newspapers in Québec are wrong. The letter his staff accidentally released are wrong. Everyone else is wrong but this is on the front page of the papers for a reason. It's worrisome that Ontario would be in negotiations to buy power we do not need. We already give away billions of power. I am sick and tired, Mr. Speaker, of Ontario ratepayers having to give away power, paying for power -- Mr. Speaker, -- Mr. Speaker, I am tired of over \$1 billion of clean green Ontario hydroelectric power being spilled and wasted. Mr. Speaker, my question is this. Rather than attacking others, will you simply say the **Premier** said last week that she was working towards a deal with Québec, working and talking about it. I want to know unequivocally. Are there any negotiations --

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So let's be crystal clear. The **Premier** has said there is no new deal. I have said it, Mr. Speaker. But again they continue to try and find ways to, you know, use some of their own information but, Mr. Speaker, they continue to tell the people of Ontario -- They do the same thing when it comes to our energy sector, when it comes to what they call spilling water, Mr. Speaker. This shows how little they know when it comes to the electricity system. One advantage of our clean reliable and flexible system that we have built, Mr. Speaker, is that we're able to procure energy on an as-needed basis. This means that we only use the electricity that is produced at the cheapest cost at that time. So it sounds to me, Mr. Speaker, that that party once again wants to start charging ratepayers more and more and more. We have brought forward a fair hydro plan at a reduced rate by 25% on average, Mr. Speaker. You know what they did? They voted against it.

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