

Re: Hansard: Horwath to Wynne -- Hydro Costs

From: "Rowe, Mary (OPO)" <mary.rowe@ontario.ca>
To: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)" <rebecca.mackenzie@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 23 Feb 2017 11:33:16 -0500

Thx. Her posts are rather unpredictable as you know...

Mary W. Rowe
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On Feb 23, 2017 11:11 AM, "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <Andrew.Forgione@ontario.ca> wrote:
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>> Andrea Horwath: For nearly 14 years, Speaker, as an MPP She, Cabinet Minister and **Premier**, this **Premier** has driven up hydro bills. She's ignored the people of Ontario. Now with an election on the horizon, she claims to suddenly get it. But as Libby Kienan -- you remember Libby Keenan, the -- the farmer from Essex that she met at Queen's Park wrote in an open letter and I'm going to quote Libby - - your political ambitions have run amok and your priorities have little to do with the people you were elected to serve, end quote. Does the **Premier** understand, Speaker, how frustrated people are with the hydro crisis that this Liberal government has created in our province?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to meet with Libby and I have spoken to many people across the province, Mr. Speaker, about their concerns on electricity prices. That's exactly why, Mr. Speaker, we began some time ago to reduce electricity costs, to take costs out of the system, Mr. Speaker, to put in place programs like the Ontario energy support program for people living on low income. The 8% that came into play in January, Mr. Speaker, that people will see on their bills. That's part of the strategy but, Mr. Speaker, there's more that we need to do, and you know, Mr. Speaker, my political ambition has been to make life better for people in this province, to make sure that education, health care, a clean renewable electricity grid, in construction, Mr. Speaker, support for people in their lives today. And strong economic growth into the future. That's my political ambition, Mr. Speaker.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker, this week people saw that the Liberal government will pass legislation to stop hydro disconnections, but only, only if they got the credit. The Liberals will make promises to lower bills, Speaker, but only if they see a political benefit. The **Premier** thinks hydro costs are unacceptable,

but only after 14 years of making things worse, making those bills unacceptable, Speaker. Can the Premier explain why people's problems don't really seem to matter at all until they become political problems for the Liberal party?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said we have been working for some time to take costs out of the system, long before actually the leader of the third party was going on this subject day after day, Mr. Speaker. We were already renegotiating the Samsung deal, Mr. Speaker, making the decision not to build new nuclear which was in the order of a \$15 billion savings, Mr. Speaker. That's a cost that will not be put into the electricity system, Mr. Speaker. Making sure that there was a low-income support program in place, Mr. Speaker. Taking the H.S.T., the provincial portion of the H.S. Off people's bills, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that this is a concern of people across the province. That is why before the budget, Mr. Speaker, we will bring out further measures to help people with their electricity bills.

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