

Fw: Hansard: Horwath to Premier (Naqvi) -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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For Scrums, if this tone continues, someone needs to say (either Naqvi or Thibeault) that this plan has been public since March 2nd.

Legislation is just the technical / administrative change to enact our plan. Months ago, we provided a full technical briefing.

Also, someone should let it be known that while Horwath was in the media studio on Monday morning announcing her intention to vote against this, her Critic - Tabuns - we being briefed by Energy policy and legal staff.

What a kick in the pants for Peter! The real story here is how little respect the Leader of the Third party has for her Caucus. Perhaps this is why they are heading for the exit (Singh).

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Andrea Horwath: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, in less than an hour the Liberal government is going to force through you a time allocation motion that severely limits debate on their hydro financing scheme, borrowing scheme really is what it is. When that happens this legislature will have had about 7 hours of debate on this bill. Seven hours, Speaker. Seven hours for legislation that will impact people's lives for the next 30 years. It's ludicrous. Why does this **Premier** insist upon ramming this legislation through the House ?

>> **Premier** Wynne: Mr. Speaker, I know that the government has leaders want to speak to the procedural mechanisms. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to just make it clear that what we are doing is working to help people in their lives. Whether it is the fair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker, or whether it's ohip plus pharmacare, which will give all children across the province from zero to their 25th birthday free medication, Mr. Speaker. Those are -- that we believe are critical. It is outrageous to me Mr. Speaker -- It is very pricing -- surprising the NDP Has indicated they will vote against both those measures, Mr. Speaker, and they would rather, would rather focus on procedural mechanisms and games, Mr. Speaker, that actually deal with the substance.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker, what is outrageous is the plan that the Liberals are trying to ram through this legislature that will cost people more money in a couple years' time when it comes to their electricity bill. Look, in addition to the limited debate that they're allowing here, they're also going to limit where the people of Ontario will have an opportunity to have their say. All of the public hearings that they've just had a change of heart on this morning are going to be happening here in Toronto. Why won't the people in London be able to have their say, Speaker, or the people in Windsor or in Ottawa or in Thunder Bay or anywhere else outside of Toronto, Speaker ? Why will those Ontarians not have a chance to have their say on this legislation?

>> Minister Naqvi: Well, Speaker, thank you very much. I can tell you on this side of the House we are extremely proud to bring forward bill 132. That is going to provide for immediate relief for all Ontarians by cutting their hydro bills by 25%, Speaker. In fact, Speaker, the bill does not Speaker, it is beyond comprehension. It's why the NDP's again giving Ontarians a significant relief from their hydro bills. Speaker, NDP Say they haven't had enough time to debate this bill. Yet they announced the opposition to this bill within the first hour of introduction of this bill. Clearly their minds are made up. They don't want to help Ontarians.

>> Andrea Horwath: What the NDP Is against is giving the people of Ontario the shaft on their hydro bills. That's what this government is about to do. This morning, this morning we did. We did call on this government to have a change of heart and to provide an opportunity for more public hearings, and of course the Liberals said no and then they had a sudden change of heart. But not surprisingly the government has decided to have all of the public hearings here in Toronto. That is not giving the people of Ontario a safe, Speaker. That's giving some people an opportunity to have a say, a say. So here we have an extremely important piece of legislation that's going to impact people's hydro bills in a very negative way in the short order. And this government's not prepared to seek input from people across the province. Why?

>> Minister Naqvi: (Transcript cut out for beginning of response)...We don't want to delay people of Ontario. Our government wants to have that 25 right away. The NDP Wants to debate the issue.

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