

Hansard: Brown to Matthews -- Energy Management

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the acting **Premier**. For the last two days, I have said that if the Liberals actually wanted to get hydro rates under control, they should stop signing ludicrous contracts. Ontario has a surplus of energy. Stop mining contracts for more. This government can't continue to sell it at a loss. So why won't the oh, right. It's because the wind and solar companies donated \$1.3 million to the Liberal party. So the Liberals keep on filling their coffers and in return offer the people of Ontario band-aid solutions for this hydro crisis. Mr. Speaker, for once will the government of Ontario think about the people of Ontario, not the Liberal party?

>> Min. Matthews: Well, Speaker, that's an abrupt change of tone, isn't it? Speaker, I I can tell you that, on this side, we have made choices that reflect the wishes of the public of Ontario. Comes to energy to shut down the coal-fired plants that were damaging the health of Ontarians every single day, Speaker. It was a deliberate choice to reduce our emissions and clean the air Ontarians breathe. Is there a cost to that? Yes, there is. Electricity system that existed in Ontario when we were elected, Speaker, had been badly -- poor maintenance. We were subject to blackouts and Brownouts. We now have a reliable source of electricity and we are taking steps --

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, back to the acting **Premier**. Liberal math struck again yesterday. So let's see how the acting **Premier** will do on this math test. If the Minister of energy is correct in his claim that he says exporting power is reduced the cost by 230 million as he said in the legislature yesterday, how do they justify the fact that this government has given away \$3 billion in power in the last three years? So, Mr. Speaker, what I want to know, from the acting **Premier**, is how much have we actually -- how much have the people of Ontario lost? How much are they paying more because of your export of energy to Pennsylvania, to New York and Michigan?

>> Min. Matthews: Speaker, I would refer the leader of the opposition to a website called gridwatch.com. Some of you will know this website. I refer to it regularly. It uses ieso data to on an hour-by-hour basis talk about where we're generating electricity, where we're exporting. And

importing it. It's a really interesting look into our electricity system. The bottom line, Speaker, is we are part of a larger system. We import electricity when we need to. We export electricity when we have excess. And different parts of the province need to export and import at different times. It is part of a larger system, Speaker. And we have a clean, reliable source of electricity in this province. We've eliminated \$4 million in health care costs, Speaker.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, back to the acting **Premier**. It's almost amusing to hear the government trying to reconcile 230 million in, 3 billion out, and try to spin that it's a profit. Let's talk some more fuzzy Liberal math. Cancelling a 10% discount and bringing in an 8% band-aid solution. The government is still oblivious to how they're hurting Ontario families. The **Premier** said we don't have a plan. I've been very clear. Stop signing these contracts. Stop this reckless fire sale of Hydro One. So, Mr. Speaker, my question to the acting **Premier** is will you actually act on energy? Will you stop signing these contracts? And will you stop the fire sale? Yes or no?

>> Min. Matthews: Well, Speaker, let's take a look back to 2002, Speaker. Ontario paid \$500 million to -- For 2002, when the Conservatives were in office, Ontario paid \$500 million to import electricity because we were not producing enough. In 2003, Ontario paid \$400 million to import electricity because we did not have the capacity to generate that electricity. Speaker, we have made -- Speaker, reliability was a real concern as was the environment. 127% increase in the use of coal. We have now eliminated coal.

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