

Hansard: Smith to Thibeault -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Smith: Thanks, Speaker. My question this morning is for the acting Premier. We learned last week, in court, that former Cabinet secretary Peter Wallace told the Premier's chief of staff, quote -- the only organization that didn't keep any records was a criminal organization, end quote. So I'm sure that it's only a coincidence that the government lawyered up this time when the auditor general asked for what turned out to be 2 million emails from the energy ministry. Speaker, why has the government only turned over 1% -- actually less than 1% of the documents that the auditor general has asked for from the government?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So when it comes to the documents asked by the auditor general, we are in full compliance, Mr. Speaker. Since October 13th, we've provided over 13,000 documents, Mr. Speaker. And how did we get to that number? On top of all the other documents that all the other associations are getting to, we actually took the phrases that the auditor general had asked for and recognized that there were 80 custodians of those phrases and that was 40 phrases. That produced 2 million documents. Those 2 million documents were then reviewed to make sure which ones applied specifically to this act and what was close. And that provided 145,000 documents. Then the ministry of energy, Mr. Speaker, is working hard to go through all of those documents to provide all of them that relate to the fair hydro plan to the auditor general. I note the opposition member knows this. And that's something we're going to continue to talk about, Mr. Speaker, because at the end of the day we are doing everything that we're supposed to do as a government to provide these documents to the auditor general.

>> MPP Smith: Speaker, the Minister just talked about a lot of numbers. One thing we learned last week in the auditor general's report is we can't believe a single number that this government brings forward any longer. All of their numbers are in a shroud of controversy. Speaker, the last time the government stalled and stalled and stalled on handing over the documents, do you remember how much that cost the taxpayers of Ontario? Over \$1 billion. And we also got to learn about all kinds of neat things like the secret code names they were using like project vapour and project fruit salad and Pete's project that was going on and the infamous double delete. How many secret codes are we going to find about this time? We know that the lawyers are in there designing which documents that they're going to turn over to the auditor general. This latest electricity scheme is going to cost electricity customers. In Ontario \$4 billion. Speaker, this time the government lawyered up first. What are they trying to hide from Ontario now?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It begs the question as to what are they trying to hide, Mr. Speaker? When it comes to the fact that they keep talking about an idea that they may have had somewhere close to maybe a year ago that they went launch and talk about a plan that they might have. I know the only number that we know is we're getting closer and closer to 365 days before they would even talk about having doing something for the people of Ontario. We on the other hand, this government, Mr. Speaker, has provided another number that everyone knows, a 25% reduction on everyone's bills from one side of our province to the other. For those that live in rural or northern parts of the province, they will even see Mr. More -- more, Mr. Speaker. But at the end of the day we're making sure we're acting, Mr. Speaker, for the people of Ontario with a clean system, an affordable system and a reliable system. That's a plan you can count on, Mr. Speaker, not like the opposition.

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