

Hansard: Vanthof to Duguid -- Auditor General Report

From: "Jonsson, Rachel (CAB)" <rachel.jonsson2@ontario.ca>
To: "Codd-Downey, Beckie (GHLO)" <beckie.codd-downey@ontario.ca>, "Ernesaks, Andrea (OPO)" <andrea.ernesaks3@ontario.ca>, "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>, "Lazarus, Jordan (OPO)" <jordan.lazarus@ontario.ca>, "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>, "Sumi, Craig (CAB)" <craig.sumi@ontario.ca>
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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Vanthof: Thank you. My question's to the acting Premier. Yesterday the A.G. Confirmed that the Premier's allowed private power companies to rip off Ontario families to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. From the privatization of power generation by the Conservatives to the sell-off of Hydro One by Kathleen Wynne, the system now seems to be set up to make cash cows of ordinary Ontario families, cash cows for private energy companies. When will this Liberal government wake up, realize that our electricity system is broken and actually do something to stop private power companies from stealing from the families of Ontario?

>> Minister Duguid: Mr. Speaker, I think I've been incredibly forthright about this for the last few days in my answers to the members opposite. So, Mr. Speaker, I think I need to go beyond that. I believe that that party, Mr. Speaker, just can't help but speak about -- they have to mention the word privatization 20 times a day. Mr. Speaker, I think what they want to bring to the energy system is an archaean philosophical perspective. What they want to do and what they're saying and what their policy is is for us to socialize the entire energy system in the province of Ontario. Man what it would cost for the government to buy out Bruce nuclear. Tens every billions of dollars that party wants to cost ratepayers or taxpayers across this province, and that's on top of their wacky scheme to buy back shares of Hydro One that will also cost at least \$10 billion, maybe more, Mr. Speaker. We're talking 10, 20, \$30 billion of costs on the taxpayers of this province, on the ratepayers of this province. To businesses in this province.

>> MPP Vanthof: Under the Liberal government, Ontario's electricity system contains programs that are paying gas generating hydro companies \$30 million more than necessary each and every year. People are suffering in Ontario. Hydro rates have gone up by more than 300% under the Liberals, and some families are being forced to choose whether to heat or eat. Why is this government allowing private power companies to defraud hardworking families who are already struggling?

>> Minister Duguid: Mr. Speaker, this party's talking about rising energy rates? Imagine what's going to happen to our energy rates when you waste \$10 billion, waste \$10 billion with zero public benefits, zero savings, Mr. Speaker, just to fulfil irfill -- your philosophical ideas. Waste tens of billions of dollars, Mr. Speaker. \$10 billion to fulfil their philosophical idea to buy back Hydro One with zero benefit to the people of this province and the ratepayers of this province, as well as spend tens every billions of dollars to purchase the energy projects, Mr. Speaker. That are currently private across this province, with again no benefit to taxpayers. They would destroy our fiscal situation and our economy.

>> MPP Vanthof: The auditor general identified another government program that costs families and businesses \$19 million over just one year. For most families who are struggling, that money is the difference between having heat this win Tory or not. Why has this Liberal government repeatedly ignored the warnings about private hydro companies gaming the system and leaving the people of Ontario to pay the price?

>> Minister Duguid: I'm not sure what other program the member's referring to, Mr. Speaker, but it's a fairly general question. But I'll go back to where I went in my first response. It's one thing to ask questions -- and this is auditor general day so we know it's a good day for the opposition. There's lots every material for them to come at us --

And that's part -- that's part of the accountability of the system that we have here, Mr. Speaker. But they also have to be accountable for what they stand for. And right now this party has a policy that will cost this province \$10 billion of waste, Mr. Speaker, to buy back shares of Hydro One with no benefit to the people of this province -- Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, we are working diligently to do everything we can to bring down the costs of energy in this province. We're providing people with a 25% cut in their energy rates, which is in part because we're working hard to bring down the costs. We've also built a clean and reliable system, Mr. Speaker, that's the envy of North America, something everybody in this province could be very, very proud of.

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