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Subject: Hansard: Horwath to Premier(Thibeault) -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

INSTANT HANSARD

>> Andrea Horwath: Thank you, Speaker. My next question's also for the **Premier**. I have to say I look forward to forming a government and cleaning up the mess Liberals made in our electricity system. And it's gonna happen. In her political -- in her political insert, Speaker, the **Premier** isn't even telling the people of Ontario the whole story. Political insert, Speaker, the **Premier** isn't even telling the people of Ontario the whole story. Not even close. She's leaving out the part about her hydro borrowing plan, wiping out any savings for families and costing Ontarians much, much more in the long run. Why is the **Premier** ok with telling Ontarians only half the story?

>> **Premier Wynne**: Mr. Speaker, we've been very clear with the people of Ontario and we'll continue to be clear with the people of Ontario that we understand that the investments that we've made in the electricity system in this province had a cost associated with them, Mr. Speaker, and that that cost is being borne right now by this generation. And that this is an asset that is going to last for many, many years, Mr. Speaker, and that we are going to spread the costs over longer period. Like the mortgage, Mr. Speaker, there is a cost associated with doing that. We've been very clear from the moment we brought out this plan, Mr. Speaker. But this is a plan that is being implemented right now. People are going to see these reductions. They're already beginning to see these reductions and they will see full implementation by summer if the legislation passes, Mr. Speaker. Not in 2020, not somewhere down the line if the federal government agrees to do something maybe sometime, Mr. Speaker, as the NDP Strategy would have it. We're acting right now helping people right now with their electricity bills, Mr. Speaker.

>> Andrea Horwath: Well here's a news flash, Speaker. She's so clear that nobody believes her anymore. Nobody believes a word she says anymore. That's how clear she's been with the people of Ontario. In about four years, Speaker, in about four years, Ontarians will see the whole truth of this plan in black and white in the form of higher hydro bills that are going to continue to skyrocket for the next 30 years. By neglecting to include this fact in her political insert, the **Premier** is showing Ontarians once again where her priorities lie, with herself and her party. The **Premier** is willing to tell Ontario families and businesses a half-truth in hopes that it is going to bring her power or hang onto her power for just a little bit longer, Speaker. That is the M.O. Of this **Premier** and her Liberal government. Will she show some leadership? Will she show some respect for the people of this province and withdraw that odious regulation immediately?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're making sure that 25% is coming off of everyone's bills, Mr. Speaker, right across the province. Small businesses, farms and families. And I hear they keep talking about four years, Mr. Speaker. For the next four years it is true we are holding the cost to the rate of inflation. That's good news in the short term and it's good news in the medium term, Mr. Speaker. And when it comes to the long term, it is this party, the only party that actually has a plan, Mr. Speaker, that is working now, is going to work in the medium term and it's going to work in the long term. Our long-term energy plan, Mr. Speaker, will continue to find ways to pull costs out of the system. Their pamphlet, their ideas is coming up with some type of pie in the sky committee. Oh, that we talk about things, Mr. Speaker. We're acting. We're making sure that we're reducing bills now, in the future and we'll continue to look after Ontarians in the long term as well, Mr. Speaker .

>> Andrea Horwath: Well, Ontarians are smart and I think that they're going to see right through this Liberal hydro scheme, Speaker. They'll see through the **Premier's** \$45 billion hydro plan and they will see these political inserts

for exactly what they are, a sneaky way for the **Premier** to try to save her own political skin leading up to the next election. Will this **Premier** stop the political games once and for all? Stop the political games and withdraw this regulation immediately?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So let's be clear. The L.B.C.S and the government advertised for price updates, Mr. Speaker, for rate hearings, for programs like the Ontario electricity support program which they've votings against, Mr. Speaker, the save on energy program which will help small businesses which they're voting against, Mr. Speaker. It seems, you know, they like to say "No" to everything. No to that expanded Ontario electricity support program, no to the new \$200 million affordability fund for families, and no to eliminating the delivery cost on on-reserve first nations, Mr. Speaker. I know regional chief day and achieve ava hill have talked about how this fair hydro plan is going to change the lives of many first nations peoples, Mr. Speaker. And that is something that this **Premier** and this government is%\$. It seems, Mr. Speaker, that the party opposite has been watching a little bit too much -
- Kenney. All they're saying is it's a hard no.

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