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Subject: Hansard: Tabus to Thibeault -- Hydro-Rate Reduction Plan

INSTANT HANSARD

>>MPP Tabuns: We're have he a very Seger and pen jet particular group here, Speaker, as you're well-aware. Speaker, to the **Premier**, yesterday I was listening to the Minister of energy respond to questions about Hydro One to rate increase applications. The Minister praised Hydro One for finding savings but Hydro One is not passing any savings onto ratepayers by decreasing rates. Instead Hydro One want as 20% distribution rate increase. The Minister said Hydro One is doing a great job as a company, even though Hydro One is currently taking Ontario energy board to court in order to keep 100% of a 2.6 billion tax break than rightly belongs to ratepayers. Why would the Minister think his job is to praise Hydro One and not deaf the interest of ratepayers?

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, we were very pleased to bring forward the fair hydro plan which defended ratepayers by reducing their bills by 25% and are that member and be that party voted against it, Mr. Speaker. So it's this party, this party, Mr. Speaker, that is actually defending ratepayers. It's this party that's actually working with companies, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we can continue to reduce bills for ratepayers, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to Hydro One, they've seen their bills and r2 and r1 designations, Mr. Speaker, drop by 40% to 50% and it had nothing to do with that party, Mr. Speaker. It had nothing to do with that member. It had to do with, Mr. Speaker, the company, the government, and ratepayers all working together to come up with solutions, Mr. Speaker. That's what we have done on this side. On that side, Mr. Speaker, they've done nothing. They have a plan that is pie in the sky that didn't even talk about helping low income individuals Mr. Speaker and that is something we've done. With all organizations to help –

>>MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker, again to the **Premier**. The Minister of energy cheered when Hydro One applied to buy vista. Even though this \$6.7 billion purchase will do nothing to improve service for Ontario ratepayers. This purchase will divert resources away from I am proving the reliability on the grid towards the cost of building an empire for Hydro One. The Ontario energy board says Hydro One was making poor use of its existing funds for capital improvements and told to reduce its revenue requirements. Hydro One basically refused. Privatized Hydro One is putting private profits ahead of the public interest. Will the Minister stop cheerleading for Hydro One and start protecting the interests of Ontario families and rate payers?

>>Minister Thibeault: Again, Mr. Speaker, it's this party that actually protected it ratepayers by bringing forth a fair hydro pan plan, that party that voted against ratepayers but making sure they didn't support the plan, Mr. Speaker. When it comes it Hydro One the acquisition of avista benefits customers, employees, shareholders and ratepayers, Mr. Speaker. Rates will not be impacted, it won't even affect local jobs, Mr. Speaker. Similar acquisitions are increasingly common, Mr. Speaker. Ford has purchased Michigan based itc and epcor purchased two water utilities. When it comes to making sure, Mr. Speaker, that the government is on the side self the rate pay, he, it's this **Premier**, Mr. Speaker, it's this government that will continue to work with our stakeholders, will continue to work with the O.E.B., will continue to work with the I.S.O. To have a clean, reliable and affordable system up like the opposition parties that have no plan to do that, Mr. Speaker .

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