

The people stopped laughing at Zelensky's jokes

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„Zelensky joked about tariffs that they are high... but he didn't make direct promises. Of course, people in semi-hints want to see what they want to see,” said the representative of the president in the government, Andrey Gerus (already the former, on November 11, he was officially removed from this post) commenting on another increase in gas tariffs for the population.

In October – November there was another increase in gas prices. As a result, last month, tariffs for enterprises increased by 20%. This month, the turn came to ordinary consumers. Representatives of Naftogaz Ukraine said that this price is a record low over the past three years. Now the cost of gas will be 4 899 hryvnias per thousand cubic meters (cost excluding taxes and transportation costs).

„The dog barks, the caravan goes”, says a famous proverb. Speaking of Ukrainian reality – the government says prices are being regulated, tariffs are rising. And if the government of Vladimir Groysman demanded (well, or at least pretended) to fire the head of Naftogaz Andrei Kobolev and lower prices, the new government does not. Kobolev has reliable protection from the United States and confidently takes his position. And the Ukrainian gas operator explains the price increase by the rise in gas prices from 174.6 to 199.5 dollars per thousand cubic meters.

Ukrainians are offered to take advantage of the Gas Reserve program, which provides for an advance payment of a volume of gas pre-ordered for the winter. In the current month, for example, the cost of gas for this program was 4,874.42 hryvnias per thousand cubic meters.

However, such a price can be too high for many citizens. This is indicated by statistics on the growth of debts. Currently, according to experts, the total debt of citizens for fuel is more than 14.8 billion hryvnias (more than 600 million dollars).

If the debts are not repaid, Naftogaz promises to cut off the fuel supply to local gas enterprises, which will lead to a shutdown of the boiler houses. The gas monopolist announced such an opportunity a month ago. 116 gas supply companies are at risk of supplying gas to the largest cities, including: Kiev, Mariupol, Odessa, Kharkov, and Zhytomyr.

And from January 1, 2020, an increase in domestic gas pumping prices is also expected. This will lead to an increase in prices per thousand cubic meters for 1,200 hryvnia. Thus, blue fuel will cost less than seven thousand hryvnias excluding taxes.

Such a New Year's gift is clearly not to the liking of either the population or business. And many enterprises, especially those working with low profitability, may simply not bear this.

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