

THESE REMEDIES ERODE THE RULE OF LAW FOR WHICH GATT STANDS. THEY ARE BASED ON UNILATERAL DETERMINATIONS AS TO WHAT IS OR IS NOT AN UNFAIR IMPORT. THEY MAY FIND SANCTION IN THE LETTER OF THE LAW, BUT THEY ARE CERTAINLY CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE GATT.

SUCH A SET OF LAWS IN THE HANDS OF A RICH AND POWERFUL NATION CAN AND IS PROVING TO BE A DANGEROUS AND PROTECTIONIST WEAPON, A WEAPON WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN TRAINED AT US. AT THE HEART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THEREFORE, IS THE ISSUE OF THESE TRADE REMEDY LAWS.

WE HAVE SEEN THE CAPRICIOUS USE OF THESE AMERICAN ' RULES ' IN SHAKES AND SHINGLES, FISH AND NOW LUMBER. BUT BEFORE CONGRESS STARTS THROWING UP NEW BARRIERS, ITS MEMBERS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK SQUARELY AT THE CONSEQUENCES OF PROTECTIONISM AND MAKE DECISIONS THAT ARE IN THE LONG- TERM INTERESTS OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

THE COMBINED EFFECT OF A 35% SPECIAL TARIFF ON SHAKES AND SHINGLES AND THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER BROUGHT HOME TO MANY CANADIANS THE DANGER OF THE US BECOMING ECONOMIC ISOLATIONISTS.

WE WERE ABLE TO SETTLE THE SOFTWOOD LUMBER ISSUE BY A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT. WE AGREED TO IMPOSE AN EXPORT TAX IN RETURN FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE COUNTERVAIL PETITION BY THE US INDUSTRY. THIS WAS FOR CANADA AN EXERCISE IN DAMAGE LIMITATION. WE DON'T LIKE IT AND A BETTER WAY HAS TO BE FOUND FOR THE FUTURE.

THIS TAX PENALIZES CANADIAN PRODUCERS AND US CONSUMERS. OUR LUMBER HELPS BUILD US HOUSES AND THIS MEANS JOBS NOT JUST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION