

*Adjournment Debate*

by the Canadian crop drought assistance program in 1988.

As well, in March 1990, the federal government announced a \$500 million special income assistance program that was cost-shared with the provinces. Then on October 13, the government announced a new cash flow enhancement program which is expected to provide a benefit of \$95 million in interest rate relief to farmers for the 1990-91 crop year. As of January 2, 1991, more than \$1.5 billion has been advanced interest free under this program. On January 11, 1991, the government announced the details of a new generation of farm safety net programs which will go a long way toward easing the hurt that producers are facing because of this international trade war.

Bill C-98, the farm income protection act, will enable the federal government to implement the gross revenue insurance plan, commonly known as GRIP, and the net income stabilization account, NISA, which is now before the House. GRIP and NISA will provide an estimated \$3 billion in benefits to grain and oilseed producers for the 1991-91 crop year.

The federal budget tabled on February 26 earmarked \$1.3 billion to agriculture and this money will be allocated in part to pay for the government's share of safety net premium rates. Some of it may also be used to pay for a possible deficit in the Canadian Wheat Board's wheat pool account, a deficit caused by the excessive use of trade distorting subsidies by both the United States and the European Community.

While Canada can cushion some of its producers from the impact of the trade dispute, we cannot support our farmers to the same extent that the U.S. and European Community can with their much larger treasuries. Their actions are unfair and irrational and Canada must continue its aggressive pursuit of a fair set of international trade rules through the GATT multilateral trade negotiations.

Canada has also complained recently to the U.S. over the use of the export enhancement program. Through this program the Americans continue to subsidize grain sales to the U.S.S.R., China, Algeria and other major Canadian markets without the economic rationale of competing Canadian and EC exports.

The government opposes these subsidized sales and continues to work both bilaterally and through the multilateral trade negotiations toward their elimination. While we work toward that goal, we stand by Canadian farmers.

## SOFTWOOD LUMBER

**Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to participate in the debate today and to follow up on a question that I put to the minister, the right hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs, on November 6 last year. It was in regard to questions I was pursuing with the minister about the softwood lumber tariff memorandum of understanding. I questioned the minister on this most important issue and debate to draw attention to how this government, in co-operation with the current Government of British Columbia, sold out our forest policy and the sovereignty and ability of Canadian governments to set policy in the forest area, in particular, when it relates to very important questions of stumpage.

• (1910)

What I was relating in my question to the minister at that time were questions I had placed on the Order Paper to attempt to get some indication of just how far reaching the U.S. commerce department and U.S. administration officials have come in trying to raise and control Canadian forest policy.

It became very clear from the questions raised on the Order Paper, the list of documents and information provided by the government over the course of a year or two, that the commerce department actually ended up providing some 60 directives, comprising over 250 pages of in some cases censored and blanked out orders to Canadian companies and officials. It is a pretty clear indication that we sold out our sovereignty on this issue.

Of course they had a hand in that from the premier of British Columbia who at the time said that the signing of this tariff was a great day for British Columbia. He was helped by the minister of trade, of course the now Senator Carney, who has left us in this ugly Catch 22 situation whereby thousands of forestry jobs in British Columbia and northern Ontario are being lost due in part to the tariff brought on by this government in