

*Government Orders*

At a time when trade is a major issue another benefit is that the Advanced Payments for Crops Act is not trade distorting. The Minister of Agriculture can go to our American friends and say that this is not a trade distorting measure. It does not stimulate production, but rather encourages orderly marketing. Just like the rest of our marketing boards, this program encourages orderly marketing. Without it there will not be that same advantage that we have in the orderly marketing of our commerce.

This government should also remember that the GATT Geneva Accord of early April obliges Canada to freeze existing support programs. It did not tell us to reduce them, it told us to freeze existing programs. What does this do for the Canadian government when it wants to go back to GATT and negotiate? It has already given away everything. There is no way that anything is left to negotiate with. As you can see, the reduction of this program gives the Canadian government a number of problems in its negotiating stance. It is particularly important to note that there is no offsetting reduction for the 1989-90 crop year in the U.S. loan program, the American equivalent to this program for grains and oilseeds.

• (1250)

Again, the Canadian government is giving away in this free trade environment while the Americans are doing nothing. They are not reducing their program, which puts our farmers at a competitive disadvantage with the Americans. That is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

Furthermore, this government seems to have forgotten that the Canadian grain and oilseed producers are already contributing their share to national debt reduction. In fact, I would say more than their fair share.

The numerous other cuts that have taken place in agricultural programs under this government have shown that Canadian farmers are doing more than their fair share in deficit reduction. Why is this government bringing in changes to a program which concerns a minimal amount of money and which means so much to Canadian farmers? Why is it picking on Canadian farm-

ers? Why is it picking on those who least can defend themselves?

Several other sectors of the agricultural economy, like domestic processors, also benefit from the APCA. Extending the marketing season from harvest to the entire year benefits domestic processors who rely on a supply of soybeans 12 months a year. This allows them to have that supply 12 months a year. Soybeans stored in commercial elevators under the APCA generate additional storage revenue for the elevator.

Again, this is an orderly way of marketing. The APCA provides an incentive for growers to produce seed for seed companies. Since the seed is not delivered and sold until the next spring seed growers can obtain cash for the unsold seed through the APCA.

Ontario has developed a market in the far east for food quality soybeans. To meet the demands of the market, the soybeans must be segregated from other varieties and shipped on a regular basis throughout the year. Exporters do not have the ability to store a large number of small lots of high quality soybeans and rely on the farmer to store the product on the farm. The APCA helps growers producing for this market opportunity by providing cash at harvest so that the delivery period to the exporter can be extended.

Farm storage is another way to better take advantage of the market opportunities which do exist. Many producers who use the APCA also build storage for the soybeans on their farms. In this way the APCA indirectly helps companies who build these storage facilities. Without this, we are going to see a number of jobs lost in that area. As in so many other cases, this government likes to change the rules in the middle of the game. This is not fair. It is dishonest and a breach of trust between the Canadian government and Canadian farmers, and this agriculture minister knows that.

During the coming year farm organizations can consult with the federal government to develop acceptable alternatives to the current Advance Payments for Crops Act. The main concern is very simple. Canadian farmers' finances are already stretched to the limit. Farm organizations are saying that with all the other increases that