

services suggests, however, how quickly the negotiators have exhausted the available intellectual capital. If more robust rules are to emerge in the future, it will only come about if the requisite analytical work is pursued and translated into policy and negotiating proposals.

Similarly, the federal government has found very little room to manoeuvre in its approach to international discussion of intellectual property because of the political minefield created by Canada's approach to the protection of pharmaceutical patents. Public discussion concentrated almost exclusively on this single issue because insufficient attention has been focussed on Canada's broader interest in forging a global set of rules to govern intellectual property protection.

Of course, in-depth analysis does not automatically lead to greater public understanding of fractious issues and acceptance of controversial solutions. Canada has been well served by the independent analysis of its agricultural economists who have examined the costs and benefits of Canada's supply management policies and the costs and benefits of greater discipline on world trade in agriculture!¹⁴ The issues, however, remain politically controversial. Nevertheless, whatever the outcome of the discussion in Geneva on the disciplines to be applied to world trade in agriculture, there is more than sufficient independent analysis and intellectual capital on which negotiators can draw and on which to base a vigorous but informed public debate.

What then are the research issues for the 1990s? While no list of issues requiring further research and analysis can be exhaustive, the trade policy research agenda for the 1990s should include consideration of a range of issues regarding both the content and form of future trade negotiations. Issues of content would include:

- Competition policy. The reorganization of industrial production along global lines involving networks of companies has both engaged and eluded the capacity of national regulators to promote and protect competition. Different regulatory regimes and enforcement policies are becoming sources of conflict between governments. For example, global oligopolies are using antidumping policies to discourage price competition. Mergers and acquisitions in different jurisdictions are evading the reach of national regulators. What is the scope for international agreement on basic competition standards? What kinds of

¹⁴ See, for example, J. C. Gilson, *World Agricultural Changes: Implications for Canada* (Toronto: C.D. Howe Institute, 1989); William M. Miner and Dale E. Hatheway, eds., *World Agricultural Trade: Building a Consensus* (Halifax: The Institute for Research on Public Policy, 1988); and Grace Skogstad and Andrew Fenton Cooper, eds., *Agricultural Trade: Domestic Pressures and International Tensions* (Halifax: The Institute for Research on Public Policy, 1990).