

"The implication of the issue is horrendous," says Mr. Young when contemplating a possible court victory for the Doctors.

"It would strike at the authority of the federal government to legislate over that land, and it would tend to cast some doubt on the status of the band council as a legitimate form of government."

He says that if the Doctors are correct, the basic premise upon which the Six Nations reserve is based, that the land is Crown land held in trust for the Indians, could be proven false.

Admitting such speculation is primarily an academic exercise, since a reinterpretation of events 200 years ago is unlikely to affect the reserve today, Mr. Young says the case presents a "wonderful opportunity" to reconsider the past.

To avoid messy and potentially expensive lawsuits over who controls the land, he wants the township and Six Nations to agree that one of them does, without specifying which.

"It seems to be a very good idea, because (a) it was practical, (b) it was economical, and (c) it didn't throw open a fundamental question that could affect the status of the Six Nations Reserve," says Mr. Young.