

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## People are too eager to tell land- owners what to do

### THE EDITOR,

As a rural landowner, I have read the "Letters to the Editor" concerning the land clearing operations immediately south of Van-kleek Hill with considerable interest, and one day I actually saw the sign-bearing protesters. It sometimes seems to me that everyone is eager to tell landowners what they can and cannot do with their land, but no one wants to compensate them or lighten their tax load.

Therefore, I was intrigued by the contrast between the letters from Katherine Riopel and Donald S. McFaul in the December 23 edi-

tion of The Review. (That's probably why The Review wins awards.) I have met people who can remember when that land was farmed, as does Mr. McFaul. Therefore, it's a change of land use, rather than a "land grab". I will refrain from commenting on the energy inputs and outputs of current cash-cropping practices, as that is a rather large subject. As for Ms. Riopel's generalization that "No farmer would have cut within a couple of feet of his neighbour's fence line," I will be most happy to show her where a farmer has cleared right up to a fence line, and even displaced it, with his muscular high hoe. My place is within 10 minutes of town if she cares to visit.

**DR. J. F. PETERSON,  
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