

● (1440)

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY ACT

BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING—ORDER STANDS

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Macquarrie, seconded by the Honourable Senator Tremblay, for the second reading of the Bill C-69, intituled: "An Act to amend the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security Act and certain other Acts in relation thereto".—(*Honourable Senator MacEachen, P.C.*).

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I was speaking with Senator MacEachen yesterday and he expects to proceed with this order next Tuesday.

Order stands.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

MOTION TO EXAMINE AND REPORT ON FILM ENTITLED "THE KID WHO COULDN'T MISS"—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Molson, seconded by the Honourable Senator Macdonald (*Cape Breton*):

That the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology be authorized to examine and report upon the activities of the National Film Board with respect to the production and distribution of the film "The Kid Who Couldn't Miss".—(*Honourable Senator Marshall*).

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I rise to support the motion of Senator Molson as I did when he first raised the issue in February 1984 on the production of the film "The Kid Who Couldn't Miss." I am pleased that we now have a Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs under the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology to which such a motion can be referred for an in-depth examination of the facts surrounding the questionable depiction of a military officer through the production of a film which, to use the kindest words, was unfortunate.

Here is an agency of government, supported financially by government, which should be helping us to identify ourselves as Canadians, an agency which should be helping us to find sources of pride in our history but has nothing better to do than destroy the sources of pride that we have and, as well, to destroy one of our proudest accomplishments, an accomplishment that is recognized around the world even by our enemies, and that is our contribution to peace for our country and, indeed, the world. Instead it warps the actions of one of our heroes—Billy Bishop. I can only ask: What was the author or

the National Film Board trying to prove? What good did they do? What motive did they have, and what was their purpose?

I should like to have put on the record for Mr. Cowan something that we keep repeating and that we are proud of. I refer to a speech made by my leader on May 8, 1985, on the fortieth anniversary of D-Day. He said:

It was a time when there was a feeling of comradeship, which is not ordinarily to be found in our relationships one with another; there was personal commitment to a cause we esteemed; and there was a clear purpose which united us one with another. Alas, after 40 years, those great emotions have eroded. The clear dedication, which we found so much to our inclination in those days, is by no means as strong as it used to be in times of war. In a sense, we can thank God that it is so, because it means that we are not challenged in this day and generation with the horrors that were apparent to those who served and to those who waited in those six years of struggle over 40 years ago.

But I hope that the spirit that quickened in our nation in war-time is a spirit that can still be found among our people in these days of peace—relative peace though it may be. I hope that the spirit will inspire us to dedicate ourselves, not so much to the past, because that is part of the record of our history, but to the future so that we may summon up, once again, those qualities that made this nation great in war-time and that can make it great in peace-time and a leader in the quest for harmony among nations.

That is the type of thing that Mr. Cowan and the National Film Board should be thinking about. I am not as close to the Billy Bishop experience as Senator Molson was, but I am just as concerned as are all those who were close to war. In particular, I join the many in this chamber and the many thousands of veterans across the land who have shown their anger at this film and their support for the suggestion that the producers of the film in question demonstrate to a committee that the production was factual.

Honourable senators, my concern is not only because someone sneers at the courage and accomplishments of a recognized war hero, but also because I question his justification for displaying a narrow-minded disapproval of what Billy Bishop stood for. And it is not related to just this one event. I think it is our duty to prevent this agency or its personnel from having the freedom to inflict on viewers their own personal point of view without our having the opportunity to call them to account. Most importantly, we have to ensure that the film will not be a forerunner of others with the same philosophy. The question that comes to mind is: Who will be next? Will there be a film to show that the Canadians who landed on the beaches of Normandy did not really get shot at, that they were simply out for a swim and that there were no Canadian troops wounded or killed? Will we see a film to contradict the fact that Canadians were massacred in Dieppe or taken prisoner, or that the thousands of soldiers who were awarded medals for bravery really did not deserve them? Will we be told that