

does not constitute, in my view, one of its shining and glorious moments.

I agree with the honourable senator that the Billy Bishop feature is replete with numerous errors. The incredible thing is that apparently this film is being distributed around the world. Some of our friends and allies must assume that we are a nation of masochists. Nations ordinarily speak about their heroes and heroines and their achievements in glowing terms. The fact that we can convene meetings under consular and ambassadorial auspices for foreign audiences to view a film which has as its aim the discrediting of a great Canadian hero is almost unbelievable. I can think of no other instance in the history of film-making where any entity, much less a government sponsored film-making body, appears to have made a conscious and deliberate attempt to defame and discredit one of this nation's authentic heroes. Quite the opposite practice is followed in the United States. Efforts are not made to discredit Billy Mitchell or Eddy Rickenbacker, the two great American flying heroes. Indeed, as the years go by, their reputations and memories have been enhanced further and further, to the point where they have achieved the status of superheroes.

In this case, the savaging of Billy Bishop's career and of the man himself has taken place well after his interment. The vultures have flapped down upon him well after his death and years after many of the people with whom he served and fought have been buried. I suspect that, had he been alive when these charges were made, his critics would have been shot down in flames—figuratively, at least—in just a few moments and after a very brief battle. Billy Bishop's reputation would have been enhanced.

I support and second this initiative because I believe it is only in committee that the facts can be brought out as they should be and that full opportunity can be given to those people who have expertise on the subject to be heard. I hope that other honourable senators on both sides of the chamber will support this motion.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, we on this side of the house certainly support the motion. I would like to see it dealt with as quickly as possible. This has almost been a crusade that Senator Molson has taken upon himself—and laudably so. I am sure that all of us are proud of the work he has done in this area, and I believe that the more quickly we get it dealt with, the better for the country as a whole, and for the Senate and its reputation outside. There may be some merit in having it debated in this chamber, but at this point I fail to see it. If anyone wishes to participate in the discussions, in the cross-

examination of witnesses or in the examination of material, he can do so more effectively in committee. I would be inclined to agree with Senator Tremblay and Senator Molson that we should perhaps refer it to the committee as quickly as possible and have it dealt with there.

• (1640)

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, in a sense there is a point of order as to what we should do with it.

Senator Doody: I thought that is what you had suggested we should do.

Senator Frith: Yes. I believe we should not try to debate here the issue itself. However, I believe we should allow another day or so to give senators an opportunity to consider the principle of whether it is a good idea for the Senate to deal with matters of this kind. I am of the view at this moment that it is, in this case; but I would like to have the opportunity to outline why I think it is a good idea and why I do not believe that it amounts to censorship or anything of that kind. Therefore I would like to adjourn the debate and speak to it tomorrow.

Senator Molson: Honourable senators, perhaps I might add a few words that I meant to say earlier. I have a copy of the video-tape of the film, if at some time senators would like to know what the fuss is all about. I am not certain how long I can keep it, but possibly I could keep it for a week or two. It is available, if there is any decision on the part of this chamber that the film should be viewed.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, on that point, I wish to make it clear that I believe that is something for the committee to decide. I do not need to raise questions on whether or not Senator Molson is correct. I merely wish to take the time to think through why I believe we would not be open to accusations of trying to get involved in censorship or making ourselves into a board of censors. I want to have the opportunity to get that on the record. That is why I seek the support of honourable senators to adjourn the debate, and I will speak to it tomorrow.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: It is moved by Senator Frith, seconded by Senator Perrault, that further debate on the motion be adjourned until the next sitting of the Senate. Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Hon. Douglas D. Everett: No. I wish to make it clear that I have said "no" because I am of the view that the debate should not be continued. The question should be put now.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: The Senate has already accepted the motion to adjourn the debate, on division.

On motion of Senator Frith, debate adjourned, on division.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.