

objected to the distortion of the historical facts in the film. Why was it filmed in Ontario and not in the Sherbrooke area, where the incident took place, and where some of the buildings in connection with the episode still stand? Distortions such as occurred in the film of *The Megantic Outlaw* shake one's confidence in the integrity of the CBC. I shall not repeat the enlightening statistics nor the persuasive arguments used by Senator Desruisseaux to press for a Senate inquiry.

I was in Rouyn-Noranda with the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on the Constitution of Canada when honourable Senator Cameron spoke in the Senate on the Canadian film industry, but yesterday I read with interest the *Senate Debates* of March 16. Senator Cameron is a well-known authority on subjects dealing with the theatre and the performing arts. The School of Fine Arts in Banff is a monument to his administrative and artistic ability. I agree entirely with Senator Cameron when he suggests that, in proposing a program of encouragement for the Canada Film Development Corporation, perhaps doubling the \$10 million made available to the corporation in 1967 would be one of the most productive investments Canada could make. In my humble opinion, additional revenue is absolutely necessary for the national film industry. But, as Senator Cameron mentioned, some standards of quality and decency must be met before films qualify for grants or loans. However, in justice to the National Film Board and the CBC, one must admit there are many excellent productions.

Senator Fergusson's contribution to the debate was most interesting. If I may inject a personal note, when she referred to Glen Ford it brought back one of many memories of World War II when the City of Quebec was chosen for the world première of a movie starring Glen Ford. Of course, you may know that Glen Ford was born in Portneuf, a municipality a few miles west of Quebec City. I believe his mother is still living there. You can imagine that was wonderful news for Quebec City, and our Women's Auxiliary of Military District No. 5 decided to use this occasion as a fund-raising project. We wrote and invited him to attend a reception in his honour and to be a guest at our debutantes' ball. Not risking a refusal, we used the feminine technique of asking his mother to plead our cause. We were thrilled when we received a gracious reply from Glen Ford's manager accepting our invitation. The ball was under the distinguished patronage of our lieutenant-governor of the time, Sir Eugène Fiset, and the officer commanding Military District No. 5, General Georges Vanier, our late Governor General. The debutantes and their friends were our ticket vendors, and the debutante who sold the most tickets won the coveted prize and honour of opening the ball with Glen Ford. It was an outstanding social and financial success.

Senator Fergusson also brought to our attention the project of Mr. Henry Beckman regarding the promotion of a Canadian Film Stars' Hall of Fame to be established in Canada, preferably in his own home territory, the Maritimes. But my concern is, why only a hall of fame

for film stars? What about TV and radio stars, and stars of the legitimate theatre, and singers, musicians, theatrical producers, and so on? Nevertheless, I think it is an excellent idea.

When Senator Fergusson was speaking about outstanding Canadian actors, Senator John Connolly interjected, "What about the ladies?" This gave me food for thought, and my mind wandered back to many articles I had read about famous Canadian women. One particular story which I shall never forget was the opening of the Victoria Bridge in Montreal in August, 1860, when a great musical festival was staged to honour the presence of the Prince of Wales. Among the performers that evening was a 13-year old French Canadian girl with a marvellous soprano voice: her name was Emma Lajeunesse. She received great acclaim, but a public subscription to finance her further training was not sufficient, and so Emma moved to Albany, New York, whose citizens realized her remarkable talent and in 1868 sent her to study in Paris. A few years later she returned to New York, calling herself Madame Albani. Had the citizens of Montreal been more receptive she might have been called Madame Montreal. Ironically, on her triumphal tours of Canada a private railway car was placed at her disposal and she was acclaimed as "Canada's own".

Another Montrealer who gained international fame was Madame Donald, but after her international success she returned to Montreal in 1937, where a few years later she founded the Montreal Opera Guild, which to this day stages operatic performances.

Other famous women from Montreal are Pierrette Alarie who, with her husband and frequent vocal partner, the tenor Léopold Simoneau, has been acclaimed in most opera houses in Europe and North America.

The famous Maureen Forrester was also a Montrealer, renowned primarily as one of the greatest artistes of this generation. She is the wife of the conductor Eugène Kash and the mother of five children. Like Pierrette Alarie, she has been able to combine marriage with a very successful career.

Montreal-born Madame Yvette Brindamour, after studying in Paris, founded a permanent theatre in 1949, Le Rideau Vert. Today it has the proud distinction of being the oldest established professional theatre in Canada. Madame Brindamour has included in her repertoire new Canadian plays, and several of the most successful of these have been the work of women playwrights.

Madame Françoise Loranger won a Governor General's award with her play, *Encore Cinq Minutes*. And *L'Exécution*, written by Marie-Claire Blais, was produced with great success by Le Rideau Vert. Incidentally, Françoise Loranger has since 1964 produced a new play every year. Some senators may remember the news coverage she received for the very amusing comedy she wrote, *Le Chemin du Roi*, which translated means "The King's Road". This comedy was based on General de Gaulle's visit to Quebec in 1967. Madame Brindamour directs