shown both leaders, complete with warts, and no one is likely to be swayed one way or the other. But Brittain is not neutral in the debate raging around him. He is afraid of the passions of nationalism and, like Trudeau is concerned with the idea that once it starts, nobody can say in what extremes it will end. His hard-hitting description of Duplessis sums up his attitudes: "Maurice Duplessis ran Quebec as a piece of private property. At his peak, he controlled not only the police, but the newspapers, the universities, and the Church itself. He was a narrow, conservative, French Canadian nationalist, and to promote this, he stuffed ballot boxes and broke heads."

Levesque, albeit by democratic means, has been given the "awesome weapons of power." The statue of Duplessis is unveiled and sits in a place of honor in front of the legislature buildings. Quebeckers now live under "majority rule with a vengeance."

Much of the fun of watching The Champions comes from its use of the old footage. A lot of it is loaded with irony. We see Levesque in his early career as television commentator hosting the first trans-Canada television hook-up. He introduces "our" Queen Elizabeth who says that "the rising generation clearly shows that, French or English, we all belong to one great Canadian family." In a sequence which was on television in 1964, we see Trudeau, the lowly law professor, interviewing cabinet minister Levesque on the disorder which his fledgling separatist ideas could create. "We live in a social and political context," said Trudeau, "where the forces of authority have traditionally behaved in a very authoritarian way." A different form of prophecy comes from a 1967 interview with newspaperman Claude Ryan. Levesque had just committed what then seemed to be political suicide by trying to get the Liberal party to adopt a separatist platform. "He is dead now," said Ryan with a smile "but watch him in five to ten years from now."

With his deft scissors and wry narration, Brittain has made recent Canadian history into some sort of Tolstoyan soap opera. The characters who hold the fate of the country in their hands all seem to have grown up together, and their lives are intertwined. The politicians and their stars grow and wane but history irrevocably marches on, symbolized and actualized in the figures of these two leaders. "It is not really a battle between the emotional and the rational man. Both minds are brilliant, both souls are passionate and there is a fine rage in each. Both are glad that, at last, it has come to this time of confrontation. They are, in a sense, prisoners of each other. And this will be their final battle."

Ronald Blumer

Note. Part one of this film was shown on CBC television Sunday, Feb. 5th and part two on the following day. The film version of this film will be available from NFB offices in June of this year.

**SHORT FILM REVIEWS**

**TAKE YOUR MARK**

The film, produced and directed by Michael Savoie and Peter Shatalow, also highlights Deryk Snelling, a former British army physical-training instructor who coached Canada's national swim team at the Munich and Montreal Olympics.

The film's editing, by Shatalow, alternates a judicious selection of fast cuts in the action sequences with interviews which are strong enough in their content to enable the viewer to identify at once with Snelling as the mentor-coach and Pickell as the young athlete. In fact, one spends the rest of the film figuring out what makes each of them tick.

Snelling, whom sports writers have dubbed the Vince Lombardi of swim-
In these, sport becomes a metaphor for "things coming together" within a zen-like "right practice" which leads over time to remarkable powers of mind and body and levels of awareness which have connotations for personal growth that are ultimately unrelated to questions of winning or losing.

In one interview, for example, Pickell refers to the uncanny sharpening of perception which results from years of disciplined devotion to the same pursuit. "You can slow it down in your mind," he comments, "the more experienced you are, the more ability you have to slow down the action... and see it in minute detail, and see the complexities that you've got to have, the thousands of things that have got to come together to make that thing just flow. I think when you do, it just sort of opens you up to what we are potentially capable of doing."

Altogether, Take Your Mark is a thoroughly enjoyable film which is as appealing for followers of the Vince Lombardi "win or die" school of sports competition, as it is for proponents of "swimming for swimming's sake", where the ultimate aim is to be involved in play instead of in beating the world.

Jaan Pill

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THE POINT


"We don't care for all the rest of Canada, All the rest of Canada, We don't care for all the rest of Canada, We're from Point St. Charles."

The Point is a film about the Irish. It is a film which might be called racist but, paradoxically, a film which will be loved and applauded by those who star in it: the poor Irish of the dying industrial underbelly of Montreal – Point St. Charles.

The Point is also a film which has caused an enormous amount of con-