

## Pay TV wants out of CRTC CanCon license commitment

OTTAWA – Canadian general-interest pay-TV licensees First Choice, Allacom and French-language Premier-Choix TVEC appeared at a hearing June 10 before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommuni-

cations Commission to plead their case that Canadian content levels, set as a condition of their licenses at 50 per cent as of Jan. 1, 1986, should be reduced to 15 per cent.

The hearing, held June 10-12, is expected to result in a decision by the CRTC within "several weeks," according to Commission chairman André Bureau.

The issue of Canadian content reduction on pay-TV had

been put off earlier this year by the Commission, in expectation of the Caplan-Sauvageau Task Force Report on Broadcasting Policy. However, delays in completing the report caused the Commission, after consultation with Task Force chairmen Gerry Caplan and Florian Sauvageau to proceed with a hearing on the pay-TV licensee application.

Ironically, CRTC chairman Bureau, writing to Caplan early

this year, stated that holding the hearing now would facilitate the bi-annual tabulation of Canadian content reporting by the CRTC.

The hearings were preceded by one week by First Choice's million-dollar Foundation to Underwrite New Drama for Pay Television (FUND), announcement of seven projects worth \$52,000.

The CRTC decision, expected by the end of July, is

likely to be a short-term one as current general-interest pay-TV licenses expire in 1987.

## Ostry's attack

cont. from p. 33

lie down in free trade talks with the U.S. but, vowed Ostry, "Above all, we are not going to let anyone knock our brains out. And maybe, after all, that is the best way to explain what we mean when we talk about our culture and national integrity." Should the U.S. negotiating team attempts to bully Ottawa, he added "Washington may well find that we Canadians are ready to give as good as we get."

American inability to strike a fair free-trade deal with Canada, he said, in an appeal to his audience's own self-interest, would indicate America "cannot deal fairly with anyone. The world will recognize that, in all that it implies."

## Cité contract

cont. from p. 33

reported to be legal counsel for Astral in this project, was at press-time unavailable for comment.

Also in the running for the contract is the Lavalin Engineering firm of which current Communications Minister Marcel Masse was vice-president before returning to politics. Legal counsel for Lavalin is Clément Richard, the former Quebec Cultural Affairs Minister.

The Cité du Cinéma has been the subject of on-again off-again negotiations since June 1983 when a contract was awarded in summer '84 by the federal government – then represented by Francis Fox – to a private sector consortium. In the fall of '84 the Liberal government was defeated and the contract withdrawn. The Conservative Minister of Communications Marcel Masse and then-Quebec Cultural Affairs Minister Clément Richard announced the commissioning of a second implementation study (by consultants Secor Inc.) and hailed a new federal-provincial spirit of consultation and collaboration.

With the Secor study completed in April and the Canada-Quebec agreement signed, the physical and financial scope of the Cité du Cinéma project has been drastically reduced from the original federal government/private-sector split of \$22 million and \$14 million respectively, to the current \$20 million project in which, according to the Secor report, the governments, combined federal and provincial share will be a recommended \$7 million.



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# NEWS

## WORKING GROUP TO STUDY NON-THEATRICAL FILM INDUSTRY

Communications Minister Marcel Masse has appointed Government Film Commissioner and NFB Chairman François N. Macerola and Winnipeg film producer Merit Jensen to co-chair a working group that will study the non-theatrical film industry. The six-member group will examine the major problems facing the industry, explore global market conditions for institutional, educational and industrial films and recommend to the Minister by August 31, measures designed to revitalize the non-theatrical film industry.

## NFB SIGNS SHARED DISTRIBUTION / ACCOMODATION AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF RIMOUSKI

Rimouski has become the third Quebec city to enter into an agreement with the National Film Board which provides for shared facilities and increased public access to the NFB's film and video collection. The agreements are the first of several the NFB will sign with cultural institutions across the country over the next five years. The objective, outlined in the Operational Plan currently being implemented by the Board, is to reduce the NFB's administrative infrastructure, activate and develop a public video market in Canada, and multiply the number of access points for NFB productions. Sharing facilities with public cultural institutions has led to a substantial increase in rental of NFB videos. In Quebec City, the



Government Film Commissioner François N. Macerola and Winnipeg film producer Merit Jensen will co-chair the working group established by Communications Minister Marcel Masse to examine the non-theatrical film industry.

NFB office is now located in the city library, in Chicoutimi, in the community cultural center; and in Rimouski, in city hall.

## NEW RE-RECORDING AND VIDEO-DISC EDITING FACILITIES

Theatre 3, the NFB's largest screening and re-recording theatre has been equipped with a NEVE re-recording console, a 36-channel board with six sub-groups, six main outputs and six-track monitoring facilities, as well as NECAM 96 and VCA subgroupings. A full Lucasfilm THX monitoring system, and a Magnatech high-speed projector have also been installed, allowing for screening of 16, 35 and 70 mm film with Dolby SVA optical or magnetic, four or six track sound.

Another new facility which will speed-up and facilitate editing is a computer-assisted film editing room which features an EditDroid console,

built around a Sun 120/2 computer and equipped with five video laser disc players and a U-matic videocassette recorder. Designed by NFB engineers and film editors, this facility, unique in Canada, also contains a video projector, which makes it possible to view edited material on a large screen.

## FESTIVAL NEWS

*Le Déclin de l'empire américain*, Denys Arcand's feature film about the social mores of contemporary Quebec bourgeoisie, co-produced by the NFB and and Corporation M&M Ltée, won the International Critics' Prize (FIRPRESCI) during the Director's Fortnight held in conjunction with the Cannes Film Festival.

*Final Offer: Bob White and the Canadian Auto Workers Fight for Independence* tied for Grand Prize (with the French film *Music Hall*) and was also voted best political and social documentary at the 7th Annual Banff International Television Festival.

## NFB Offices in Canada:

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