

EUROPEAN NOTES

by Stephen Challis

A report released recently by a committee set up to investigate the financing of the BBC has caused a storm of controversy in the U.K. broadcasting community. The Peacock Committee, led by free-market liberal economist Alan Peacock, has recommended comprehensive deregulation of U.K. broadcasting which, if implemented, will change the structure of the entire British entertainment industry.

Peacock recommends a step-by-step transformation of U.K. broadcasting into "a sophisticated market system based on consumer sovereignty." He proposes a system whereby England would have a host of independent TV channels, each delivered to consumers on a pay-per-channel or pay-per-program basis. He has conceded that it may take until the end of the century to implement this system.

There is said to be a rift in the Thatcher government over whether or not Peacock's recommendations for long-term change should become Conservative Party policy. Other of his recommendations, those put forth as the interim steps to achieving a free market in broadcasting, were well-received and the Home Office has been instructed to give them serious scrutiny. They would include the establishment of a national fibre optics grid to carry TV signals, the establishment of a quota of up to 40 per cent for independent productions on both the BBC and ITV, and the restructuring of the TV licence fee arrangements.

The recently elected government in France may have to pay heavily for its decision to cancel the concessions granted to the operators of La Cinq and TV6, the two channels created by President François Mitterand in late 1985.

Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, one of the owners of La Cinq, has indicated that he will seek compensation for the cancellation, possibly as high as five million francs.

A new law to promote film production has been announced by the Ministry of Culture in Greece. The law introduces a finance scheme with favourable interest rates for foreign producers shooting in Greece and orders all state agencies to assist producers by providing location facilities where possible.

More detailed information on the new law will appear in next month's column.

A season of Canadian films was launched July 1, 1986 by **Premiere TV**, one of Britain's pay TV networks. The series runs for three months and presents a cross-section of recent Canadian film production. Over 40

films will be aired in the series, of these 23 are feature-length and three are made-for-children films. Also to be aired are two made-for-TV films, TV series, **Danger Bay** and **The Edison Twins**, and a host of short films and documentaries.

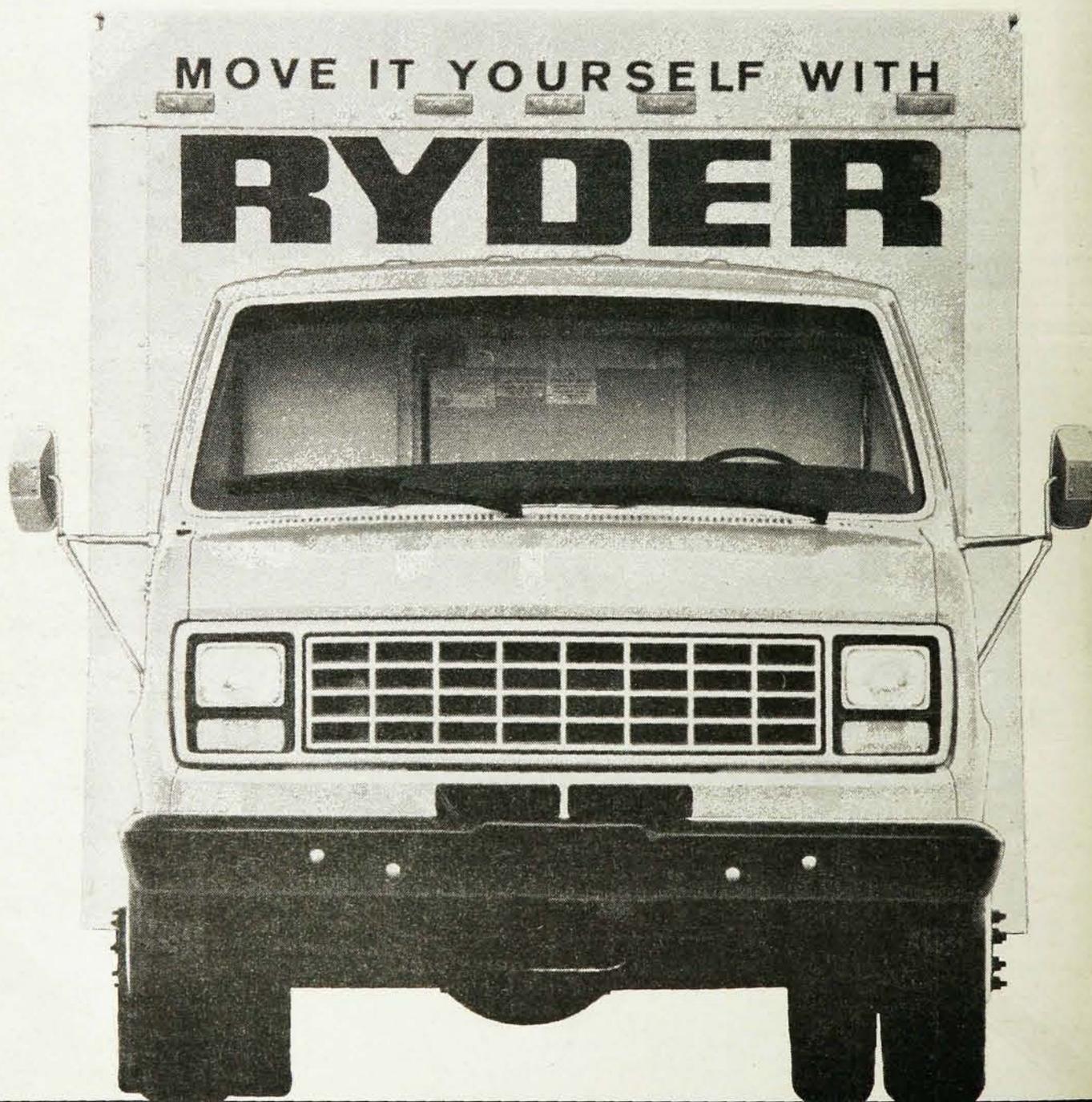
A program of interviews with Canadian film personalities done by Toronto

City TV will be aired in conjunction with the series.

Swiss-born Canadian filmmaker Léa Pool has been selected as a juror for the 40th annual Locarno Film Festival in Tecino, Switzerland. Pool, who emigrated to Quebec in 1975, studied and began her career

as a filmmaker in Canada. In 1981 she produced nine episodes of the TV series **Planète** for Radio-Quebec and has since made two feature films, **La Femme de l'hôtel** (1984) and **Anne Trister** (1985). The latter competed at the Berlin Film Festival this year.

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A Life Achievement Award was given to Norman McLaren at the seventh World Festival of Animated Films in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. The award was given for "his creative work which distinctly influenced the development of animated art in the world." A retrospective

of McLaren's films headed the group of special programs at the festival.

D.L. Taffner Ltd., agent for Thames Television International of the U.K., has acquired worldwide distribution rights for *Bayo*, a co-production of

the National Film Board and Jape Films Services Inc. The film is being offered to public and private TV channels in the U.K. and on the continent for use this fall.

Canadian actor Michael J. Fox has been named the most

promising new male star of 1986 in a readers survey done by *Films and Filming* one of Britain's largest circulation film celebrity magazines. Fox came to fame in the U.K. with his starring roles in *Back to the Future*, *Teen Wolf* and the TV series *Family Ties*.

Judy Crawley was pioneer in film

OTTAWA – Judy Crawley, age 72, died in her Ottawa home on Sept. 15 of a respiratory illness. She has left behind a legacy of Canadian films.

Co-founder of Crawley Films with her husband Budge, Mrs. Crawley's contribution to Canadian films spans a period of 48 years. It started with the first Crawley film – the winner of an amateur's contest – about the Ile d'Orléans in the St. Lawrence River and ended with the feature film she was working on at the time of her death.

By *Special Appointment*, with producer Paterson Ferns, director Eric Till and a script written by W.O. Mitchell and Peter Blow, is currently in pre-production. December 1987 is the tentative release date.

Over the years, Crawley Films have been seen around the world in 22 languages and have won 150 awards. Among the finest of the Crawley Films, was the Academy Award winning (1975) *The Man Who Skied Down Everest*.

Many of the Crawley documentaries made during the 1940s and 1950s were contracted by the National Film Board.

Mrs. Crawley will be well remembered for her series on child care entitled *Ages and Stages*. The short films on Canadian history shown in the Canadian Pavilion at Expo 67 was another popular Crawley project.

Producer, director, script supervisor, lab technician, camera person, Mrs. Crawley was the consummate filmmaker. She was president of the Canadian Film Institute from 1979 to 1982.

She is survived by her husband, from whom she was separated, three daughters, Michal, Jennifer and Mariah; three sons Patrick, Alexander and Roderick and five grandchildren.

New CFTA awards

TORONTO – The Canadian Film and Television Association is holding its annual awards dinner Oct. 23, but the group has added a twist to its celebrations this year.

Instead of awards for the best production, the CFTA will change the format it uses and now hand out awards for individual achievement. Two winners will be announced in each of five categories.

The awards dinner will start at 6 p.m. on Oct. 23 at the Four Seasons Hotel on Avenue Road in Toronto.

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