

## Bouchard holding own at D O C

OTTAWA — Until the RCMP investigation into Marcel Masse's election expenses is completed, Secretary of State Benoît Bouchard, who became interim minister of Communications following Masse's resignation from cabinet, is a man in a difficult position.

However, according to Ottawa sources, Bouchard is holding up well under the uncertainty and has so far managed to work out what one source terms "good collaboration" between the two ministries under his responsibility.

Bouchard, 45, the Conservative MP for the riding of Roberval, was swept into office by the September 1984 Tory landslide that was his entry into federal politics.

A native of Roberval, Bouchard studied literature and history at Laval University in Quebec City. A college professor of literature for many years, Bouchard became the director of the Roberval CEGEP where he had taught. Other than a stint as a municipal councillor, Bouchard has never been in politics until he was catapulted to Ottawa last year.

There, he was immediately named to cabinet, becoming minister of state responsible for transport and, following a cabinet shuffle last summer, was appointed secretary of state.

While Quebec sources say that Bouchard is "even more nationalistic" than Masse, the

view in Ottawa is that he is at least as nationalistic. As one source told *Cinema Canada*, "Bouchard is very aware of the necessity of protecting our national culture."

A musician (at the piano) since the age of four, Bouchard is described as having a very direct and warm personality. One bureaucrat says of him that "his bluntness is reassuring."

While Bouchard does not sit on the cabinet's inner sanctum, the Planning and Priorities

Committee, he is a member of the Cabinet Committee on Economic and Regional Development.

According to Ottawa sources, Bouchard as minister of Communications is currently working on three top priorities: defending Bill C-20, an act to amend the CRTC,

Broadcasting and Radio Acts article-by-article before the House Standing Committee on Communications and Culture; steering the thorny question of copyright revision through cabinet, and thirdly getting a cabinet policy on the question of Canadian cultural sovereignty.

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## Toronto Film Now

TORONTO — A film that received a sympathetic rejection letter from the White House after a request to film U.S. President Ronald Reagan and wife Nancy in their White House bedroom will be one of three independent productions featured Nov. 17 at Toronto Film Now, an on-going series attempting to showcase independent and art film productions by Toronto filmmakers. The third film on that day's program, producer Bruce McDonald's *Knock Knock* is a one-hour docu-drama about a filmmaker obsessed with bedrooms, hence his journey to the American capital to capture on film the Reagans at home.

Considered by Toronto filmmaker Michael Korican as "the first attempt by local producers to reclaim commercial screen time (outside a festival context)," Toronto Film Now is the offspring of a package of shows presented last Apr. 9 at the Bloor Cinema (venue for the Sunday afternoon series

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