

ACTRA speaks up

TORONTO — ACTRA's Free Trade Speakers Bureau, a 31-member body of association writers, performers, and broadcast journalists launched mid-May to coincide with the opening of Canada-U.S. free trade negotiations, is making "quite a lot" of appearances and interviews in all media in defence of Canadian cultural

sovereignty, says ACTRA communications director Jane Craig.

Bureau participants are conveying the message that free-trade is a threat to Canadian culture and campaigning to keep the nation's cultural industries off the bilateral bargaining table.

The first step in what ACTRA president Gino Marrocco called an "aggressive" campaign, Craig says the bureau will be kept going as long as is

necessary and quite possibly as long as the negotiations, projected to run 18 months.

Most interest in the bureau's speaking members — located in nine Canadian cities from Vancouver to St. John's — has thus far come from the media, but Craig notes requests have come from other ACTRA members, giving the association cause to consider drawing up lists of additional speakers against free-trade.

Extra, extra read all about it John Grierson was a liar!



The Film Studies Association of Canada present

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TM: Still for sale

MONTREAL — "In this business, everything and nothing is for sale," said a local media analyst. On that note the future of Télé-Métropole, the Montreal-based broadcasting company and the owner of Quebec's largest private television station is still anyone's guess.

As of June 12, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) officials said they have not received any application for a renewed hearing, from any prospective buyer of Télé-Métropole, following last month's CRTC decision to block the sale of Télé-Métropole to the Montreal-based Power Corporation of Canada.

This CRTC decision (April 18) was made on the grounds that Power Corp. had failed to demonstrate that "the proposed transfer would yield significant and unequivocal benefits to the communities served or the broadcasting system as a whole." It did raise, however, a round of speculation as to whether Power Corp. would reapproach Télé-

Métropole and file for a second hearing.

At press time, André Desmarais, vice-president of the Power Corp. told *Cinema Canada* he preferred not to comment on whether a new round of negotiations with Télé-Métropole is underway or planned in the near future.

Also declining to make a comment was Pierre Peladeau, president of Québecor Inc. which has been referred to as one of the more likely acquirers of the Télé-Métropole.

The owners of Télé-Métropole, the J.A. Desève estate and foundation, announced last year that the company should be sold because of tax problems. A preference was specified for a French-Canadian buyer.

The \$97.8 million deal which was originally made with Power Corp. (subject to regulatory approval) saw the sales of shares at \$30.75. On June 12 Télé-Métropole shares were trading at \$41.

Roger Giguère, chairman of Télé-Métropole, was unavailable for comment.

Student Showcase winners

TORONTO — Sheridan College's Neil Hollands, Windsor University's Glenn Warner, Humber College's David Vallis, and the Ontario College of Art's Jim Maunder were the winners in the animation, drama, documentary, and experimental categories May 31 at the first-ever Class of '86 Student Film showcase awards.

Held at the Ontario Science Centre, the event is the work of the Student Entry Project created this May by Ontario film instructors and NFB Ontario Studio representatives to profile new filmmakers to the industry. The event, which

joins CBC's annual student-oriented Telefest showcase, hopes to become a national undertaking in 1987, said the NFB's Gerry Flahive.

Warner, Vallis, and Maunder shared in \$7,500 worth of technical services provided by the NFB, P.F.A. Motion Picture & Video Laboratories, Medalation Film Laboratories, and Film House Group. Hollands received a three-month paid apprenticeship at Ottawa's Atkinson Film Arts. Among those presenting the awards were filmmakers Joyce Wieland and actors Saul Rubinek and Janet Laine-Green.

WWF market bullish

MONTREAL — Organizers of the World Film Festival in Montreal, Aug. 21 to Sept. 1, say reservations for office space at the Montreal International Film, TV and Video Market have almost doubled the 1985 total.

The market which is expected to attract film, television and video professionals from more than 60 countries will be held Aug. 24 to 31.

An additional floor of office space has been added at the Meridien Hotel bringing the number of available offices to 100. No fewer than 175 com-

panies and government agencies have already confirmed their participation.

TelevidCan, a new section of the market, will provide sellers of Canadian programming with offices in the Meridien Hotel.

MONTREAL — Compagnie France Film, Montreal, has acquired all rights for the French versions of five upcoming Empire International films. This is the third group of Empire films that Compagnie France Film will distribute. Expected to be ready for release before the end of 1986 the five films are: **Bloodless, House of the Stars, I Eat Cannibals, Pleasure Planet and Test Tube Teens.**