

THOMSON AND SOUTHAM NEWSPAPER
CHAINS FACE COMBINES CHARGES

Thomson Newspapers Ltd., Southam Inc. and some affiliated companies were charged on May 1 in Toronto with a total of seven counts under the conspiracy, merger and monopoly prohibitions in the Combines Investigation Act. In addition, Mr. William Carradine, Vice-president of Southam Inc. was charged under s. 41 of the Act with attempting to impede or prevent an inquiry being conducted by tearing, mutilating and attempting to destroy and attempting to hide documents. Named as unindicted co-conspirators in the conspiracy charges were George Currie, Vice-president of F.P. Publications Ltd., Mr. John A. Tory, President of Thomson and Mr. Gordon Fisher, President of Southam. A preliminary hearing has been set for September 28.

One count alleges conspiracy relating to "major English language daily newspapers published in Montreal, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Ottawa so that the markets for those products would be dominated by one owner in the absence of a major publishing competitor". There are counts of conspiracy, merger and monopoly relating to the closure of the Montreal Star and the sale by Thomson to Southam of its interest in that paper. There are also counts of conspiracy, merger and monopoly relating to the closure of the Winnipeg Tribune and the purchase by Thomson of Southam's assets in that paper.