

Card Firm Enters Plea Not Guilty

TORONTO (CP)—William E. Coutts Co. Ltd., a Toronto-based greeting card firm, entered a plea of not guilty Tuesday to seven charges in the Ontario Supreme Court under the Combines Investigation Act.

The company is charged that between Sept. 1 and Oct. 31, 1962, it refused to sell its greeting cards to Dean's Avon Ltd. in Halifax because Dean's had resold or offered to resell greeting cards at a price less than a minimum specified by Coutts.

A similar charge against Coutts, within the same period of time, is in connection with Dartmouth Flower and Gift Shop in Dartmouth, N.S.

The third count says that Coutts, between May 1 and Oct. 31, 1963, induced C. Cole and Co. Ltd. of Toronto to resell greeting cards at a price specified by Coutts.

The fourth and fifth counts charge that the company induced Savoyette Ltd. of Toronto and Woodward Steinberg Ltd. of Montreal, between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 1961, to resell greeting cards at a price specified by Coutts.

The sixth charge that the firm, between Oct. 1, 1960 and April 30, 1961, was party to the granting of \$350 to Davis Agency of Ottawa Ltd., a purchaser of Coutts card.

The final charge cites that the firm repeated the grant to Davis between Aug. 1, 1961 and April 30, 1962.

The trial continues.

Three Nations Due To Join Commonwealth

LONDON (CP)—Commonwealth membership is to be boosted to 26 within the next six weeks when three new countries are welcomed into the loosely knit association.

Canada's Arnold Smith, Commonwealth Secretary-General, told reporters prime ministers and heads of delegations meet. The additions will be Botswana, the present southern African enclave of Bechuanaland which becomes independent from Britain Sept. 29; Lesotho, the African enclave of Basutoland which gains independence Oct. 4, and Barbados in the Caribbean Islands due for independence Oct. 30.

Smith said he has been in touch with President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania—the only Commonwealth country not represented at the conference—and his approval also was obtained.

Pollsters See Trouble For U.S. President

WASHINGTON (CP)—President Johnson is in political trouble heading into the Nov. 3 congressional elections, two leading public-opinion pollsters say.

But, in a sample of the complexities of the issues shaping up, they differ on whether Viet Nam or domestic affairs are most to blame.


The Louis Harris Survey, copyrighted by the Washington Post Company, says the president's popularity is at its lowest ebb, drawing public support of only 50 per cent of those polled on his conduct of public affairs. It attributes most of the slippage to domestic matters, from inflation to civil rights strife, but notes that previous presidents from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to John Kennedy survived the same declines.

George Gallup, another pollster, is quoted by the news magazine U.S. News and World Report as predicting deep trouble for the president unless the Viet Nam situation improves.

He forecasts republican gains in November—which would follow the usual pattern in these elections for the party out of power, and says the U.S. public wants an end to the Vietnamese war.

Civil rights tensions—especially rising northern white hostility—is ranked second as a presidential problem.

RAISE MINIMUM WAGE SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (Reuters)—The Spanish cabinet has raised the national minimum wage for an eight-hour day to 84 pesetas (\$1.54) from 80. Most workers in Spanish industry are already earning more than 100 pesetas a day.



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