

member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). I may say, if it will make him feel better, that when the Prime Minister referred to the "authority on the rules", I find he was referring to the Chair. It has been said, of course, that the House is master of its own rules. That is obvious. The House can at any time change the rules and decide that it will accept a motion or not accept it. It can decide to change the standing orders under which the Chair has to operate. But this is not the task of the Chair.

For instance, Standing Order 41 says that the setting up of a committee is something which must be done by a substantive motion, with notice. This Standing Order is before the Chair. The Chair cannot change it unless honourable Members tell the Speaker that they do not want him to respect it, or any number of Standing Orders. This is a rule I am faced with. I am faced with this practice, and unless honourable Members can give me a list of the Standing Orders which I should disregard, I am bound by it. If they give me such a list, I will be guided by it because I am a servant of the House. But as long as I am not told there are specific Standing Orders which I have to disregard, I am afraid the Chair is bound to rule according to the Standing Orders which are given to me to respect and obey and which I ask honourable Members to respect and obey along with me.

The honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre quoted citation 199 and says I have the power in the Chair to suggest change to a motion. My answer to this is that certainly the Chair can do so when there is only a question of form to be considered. But the Chair cannot take it upon its own initiative to alter the substance of a motion moved by an honourable Member and suggest in what way it could be made acceptable to the Chair and to the House.

I am sure I am forgetting many of the things on which I wanted to comment, because there were such excellent contributions made by all honourable Members. I know that these comments were made not so as to be obstructive in any way but so as to be helpful to the Chair—and if there was ever a Chair which needs help, it is this one!

With all due respect, I believe the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the honourable Member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton), as, indeed, most of the honourable Members who have taken part in this debate on the question of procedure, would have to agree with the Chair that this is not a motion which could be accepted at this time. It is irregular for reasons which I gave in detail when I ruled out three previous motions. I can assure honourable Members that it is with a sad heart that the Chair must come to this conclusion, because nothing would please me more than to be able to accept a motion which would take this matter away from the responsibility of the Chair, upon whose shoulders, it has been suggested, it now rests. But I am prepared to accept my responsibility, and my responsibility is that this motion should not be accepted, and I so rule.

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Mr. Gray from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, presented the Third Report of the said Committee which is as follows:

Your Committee has considered Bill C-111, An Act to incorporate Bank of Western Canada, and has agreed to report it with the following amendments:

*Clause 5*

Delete and substitute the following therefor:

"5. (1) In this section and sections 6 to 9,

(a) "agent", in relation to

(i) Her Majesty in right of Canada or in right of a province, or