Inquiries of the Ministry

should indicate that the Department of National Defence has always maintained the friend-liest possible relations with the unions, and we intend to continue this. In his question the hon, member referred to a Canadian union. We are faced here with an over-all exercise in command and control and in urban control, as well as all sorts of other things in which Canadian Forces have to participate elsewhere. There was a scenario in which a mythical union in a mythical place, not in Canada, acted out a part. There was an exercise in which a political problem was involved in which a union formed a political party, and that is again a mythical situation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): This is the type of exercise that went on, and it was explained repeatedly by the P.R.O. in the region to the local newspapers. First of all, there was no intention to be injurious to the labour unions. If that were the case, I would have to conclude that the Canadian Forces are probably better at peacekeeping than at acting.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): You are getting better than Paul Martin.

Mr. Broadbent: I find the minister's answer totally unacceptable, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence which arises from an earlier answer he gave. Is the house correct in assuming that since the Canadian Armed Forces are now being trained in counter-insurgency activities, the insurgency is expected to come from our civilian population?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is not in order.

TRADE

WHEAT—POSSIBILITY OF SALES TO NATIONALIST CHINA

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of the statement attributed to the minister of economic affairs of Nationalist China that that country wants Canadian wheat but Canadian officials have not tried to sell wheat to Formosa, will the minister undertake to have a mission sent immediately to Nationalist China, and will he explain why Canada has not tried to open markets in Formosa?

[Mr. Cadieux (Labelle).]

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I will inquire, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Yewchuk: In light of reports quoting the same gentleman as saying that Canada has also failed to seek Formosan markets for Canadian lumber—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask the question directly, not quote from the statements to which he is now referring.

Mr. Yewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase my question. Will the minister undertake to investigate also the possibilities for sales of Canadian lumber, machinery and heavy water nuclear reactors to Formosa?

WHEAT—SALES REPRESENTATION IN TAIPEI

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the United States has a permanent wheat selling office and representatives in Taipei and that Canada has no direct sales representative there, either through the government or through the Wheat Board, will the minister take steps toward establishing some type of sales contact for the potential sales that are awaiting Canadian wheat there?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): As a general policy the Canadian government allows Canadians to make sales to Taiwan. There is no problem about that.

Mr. Thompson: Through whom?

Mr. Pepin: In the usual way.

Mr. Thompson: There are no representatives there.

Mr. Pepin: I said I would look into that aspect. There is probably a question of price competition.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the minister might be allowed to make a reply to the hon. member.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

REQUEST FOR MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. member for