

heating of rolled stock, and by 70-75% for the heating of forging and stamping metal. Since the energy crisis of the 1970s, the unit consumption of gas in industrial production in the West decreased by an average 40%. Last year, the absolute consumption of gas there dropped to the 1973 level, whereas in the USSR it reached record figures. Why is that?

We were told in Moscow by Ministry executives that, on the instructions of the Government, the Ministry of the Gas Industry is trying to get consumers to utilize the fuel more efficiently and economically. How then, under this mass attack on wastefulness, does the squanderer manage to survive?

... If we were to collect all of the authorized "instructions", "orders" and "requests" received by the Gorky Automobile Plant from the Ministry of the Gas Industry, we would get a multivolume documentary epic. It might even prove to be an intriguing story about how the Ministry of the Gas Industry is battling with one of its largest consumers, which does not wish to take a more assiduous attitude towards gas. The subject will culminate in an Overall Economy Campaign developed especially for this enterprise and approved by two deputy ministers. Alas! This chapter will not be followed by a happy ending. Of the 300,000,000 cubic metres of gas that the auto workers were supposed to save over a five-year period, only about 10,000,000m³ has been saved so far.

"There is no justification for this," says assistant technical director E. Parkman with a gesture of helplessness. "I guess we're just not working hard enough."