

logging capacities. Logging enterprises are not being rebased to where there are still supplies of timber, virtually no new enterprises are being created in heavily forested areas, and there is a lack of machinery for selective and maintenance fellings."

Q. "Hence the overfellings?"

A. "In some countries, overfelling of a planned coupe is considered a crime against the State. What do we see here? In 20 years, about 700 million cubic meters of timber have been felled in the European part of the country. This is five times the planned coupe. Forests in Karelia, in the Kirov, Kostroma, Vologda, Perm' and Sverdlovsk Oblasts, and those near railways in Arkhangel'sk Oblast and in the Komi ASSR, have been exhausted. But the Ministry of the Timber Industry and USSR Gosplan are demanding that the State Committee for Forestry once again permit overfelling of the planned "conifer" coupe there by up to 17.4 million cubic metres. But if the Ministry of the Timber Industry is really in such a tight spot, if some time is required for the transition to sustained forest use, then a government decision will be needed to determine this overfelling and simultaneously to indicate specific measures to correct this abnormal situation in the shortest possible time, instead of continuing forever to justify overfelling by the dubious, unscientific computations which are still used by USSR Gosplan." (To our great regret, by the time this conversation had gone to press, the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR had approved this overfelling in consultation with the Oblast Executive Committees. - Ed.)