

Q. "In a situation characterised by market relations, how is the sector's raw materials emphasis going to be dismantled?"

A. "Today, when elected representatives of the people, operating by the knife-switch method, are striving to close down almost all of the pulp and paper enterprises in the interests of solving ecological problems, it is necessary for everyone - from the deputy of a village council to the leaders of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR - to understand that without paper the country will not achieve a balance between money and goods. Our papermakers are producing about 2,000 types of paper. It is serving mankind all through life and is at work on the ground, in the atmosphere, under water and in space. I am no longer saying, however that the development of information science and glasnost is inconceivable without paper."

Q. "What is the attitude towards wood chemistry in the West?"

A. "In recent decades, advances in many sectors of the economy in developed countries of the West have been largely dictated by the fact that they attach priority to the development of wood chemistry. Yet our press has made it a nation-wide enemy. What has happened is that it has brought down the bough on which it has been sitting. And here is the sad result. Whereas in the USA and Canada 53 percent and 62 percent respectively of the total volume of timber extracted undergo secondary conversion, in our country the figure is 14 percent. In the United States, about 56 million tons of pulp are produced; with us, the figure is only 8.5 millions. Even if a woodworking shop satisfies all the international ecological norms with respect to ecology, our "greens" will insist that construction be shut down."

Q. "Vladimir Alekseevich, I would like to come back to the economic results of trading in newsprint on foreign markets. In the last year, according to information from USSR Goskomstat (State Committee for Statistics), our country sold 320,000 tons of paper and earned about