

"We should also mention an interesting decision made by the employees at Nizhnevartovsk enterprises - to make a one-time payment when a person receives his/her pension (between 5,000-10,000 roubles or more). The question arises: where can we get the money to take care of both women and pensioners? Are Siberians taking on more than they can handle? No, they have justified everything in economic terms. A positive factor is that Nizhnevartovsk will be the first town in Western Siberia to change over to a full cost-recovery system as of January 1, 1989."

"We began preparations to switch over to a regional cost-recovery system by consolidating the position of the local councils," continued Sidorchev. "The City Council must be sole 'master' of Nizhnevartovsk. We must do away with 'departmental' child day-care centres and take responsibility for all the day-care centres, schools, and health-care establishments. We are now calculating the necessary norms and quotas and the required payments to be made by each enterprise for social projects. Enough of the notorious system of departmental 'patronage' with the local executive committees being forced to beg for funds. We support putting an end to social privilege: in the past, everything belonging to government departments was of superior quality, while whatever belonged to the local councils was inferior. There should be one 'master' with the power and authority to bring everything up to one level."

"Don't think, though, that the renewal process is proceeding smoothly and all problems have been resolved. Most innovations, unfortunately, are, strictly speaking, unauthorized. The decisions reached have no legal basis. There is no law