

were financed in this way, we would solve many problems."

Korovin. "There is already a fair number of candidates for these monies. The USSR State Committee for the Environment, for example, and the local authorities. A battle is in progress among the higher authorities. At USSR Gosplan it is not only the creation of such a fund that is being discussed, but also the question of whether the extinguishing of major fires should be financed from the State budget. Incidentally, the practice of creating insurance funds exists in most civilised countries throughout the world."

Q. "How do things stand with respect to the extinguishing of fires in the industrially advanced forest States?"

Korovin. "Let us compare the situation in the USSR with that of the USA and Canada. Although in principle they are on a level with us, they are outpacing us in the extent to which they are mechanized. For instance, until now we have no airborne tankers or facilities for delivering heavy machinery. We are somewhat better off in the matter of controlled scorching. This is of very great importance, for today it is generally acknowledged that what we should be talking about is not so much a system for protecting forests against fires as controlling the fires once they have started."

Barsukov. "Just now a great deal of work is being done with respect to the devising of controlled scorching techniques. There is already the experience of the Baikal forest experimental station, in which scorching is organized in February and March to coincide with a low level of snow cover. We are