

Terms of Newsprint Producers' Production Competition
Unsuited to Perestroyka Conditions

Every six months we publish the results of the on-going competition among the major newsprint producers, the Balakhna, Solikamsk and Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Combines. Representatives from the three combines met recently in Pravdinsk, Gor'kiy Oblast.

Several high-ranking representatives privately expressed concern that the competition was out-of-date and ought to be restructured along more contemporary lines. These thoughts, however, were expressed behind the scenes while the official functions were on a less critical note. Anyone sitting in the hall listening to the speeches would have been convinced that the existing system suited all concerned. The participants met, exchanged compliments and then parted until the next meeting.

According to Yu. Kachalov, the chief of the Kondopoga delegation, the competition has less importance also because the conditions in the various mills are not the same. Some mills work from ready-made chemical pulp while others process the wood. There are differing production technologies. Each mill has its own problems with raw materials and its own relationship with the suppliers.

V. Baranov, the Chief Mechanic from Solikamsk, noted also that the capacities of the papermachines all differ. "We have similar capacities to those in Balakhna but the Kondopoga workers have higher capacity machines which means they get better results and have more to work with..."

All this means that the percentages of plan over-fulfilment cannot be the sole, indisputable criterion for evaluating the enterprises' results.