

structure by buying less equipment and raw material and more everyday necessities. Mr. Sokolov said that he was in favour of nationwide referenda on major state questions. He also proposed making significant cut-backs in the administrative apparatus and, moreover, completely closing down the transport ministries, and replacing them instead with a State Transport Committee under the aegis of the USSR Council of Ministers. It was very important, he emphasised, to increase the legal and material liability of economic managers who fail to take measures to prevent air and water pollution.

The programme put forward by the head of the steam ship company, Ivan Yanovskii, was divided into three main sections. These were legal guarantees for social welfare and defence of the Soviet citizen, the further development of the state's democratic foundations, strengthening the legislative, economic and other functions of the councils. He particularly spoke in favour of extending the special advantages and increasing the allowances for single mothers, pensioners, war invalids, those disabled at work and students. He called for an end to the imbalances in the development of the Western Siberian oil and gas drilling complex, where the main emphasis is still on industrial construction to the detriment of the social sphere. As a potential candidate, he promised to vote for reduced spending on defence and space, and for cutting down on the various sorts of "long-term constructions", to fight to make sure that the law on local self-government was passed without delay, to fight for the guaranteed equality of all citizens before the law and finally for making trade unions into the genuine defenders of the workers' interests.