

In the social sphere, too, greater initiative and enterprise is required today. The oil workers of Nizhevartovsk, for example, have managed to successfully operate four of their own sovhozes and to forge direct ties outside the borders of their region.

"What has changed over the past month in the party organization of your association?" we asked the secretary of the party committee. "A lot has changed: in the collectives there has been a flood of growing impatience. People are anxious for positive changes. They cannot and will not be content with the idea that, with such enormous volumes of oil being produced for the country, they can scarcely make ends meet.

"Maybe I am even aggravating the problem, I don't know. But there's a concept in mathematics known as the catastrophe theory. According to this theory, from certain small indications in the behaviour of a function you can predict an increasingly rapid catastrophical behaviour. So, for example, if we don't all finally start tackling cardinal solutions to the burning problems which have been facing us for a long time already, then we are in for some stormy events, and these could be much more severe than strikes by miners. This is something people need to be aware of. There is a reason for the open letter from the people of Tyumen to N.I. Ryzhkov and S.A. Shalaev, which was published on March 10 in the Oblast newspaper under the headline "We will wait until April 1".

Public organizations are unanimous in condemning strikes as a means of settling conflicts. But at the last labor collective conference there was open discussion of initiating a collective labor dispute with the government. We are forced to sell to the government 99.8% of the oil produced - such is the magnitude of the State order - at 23 rubles per ton. This State order, in our opinion, is