

"We were driven into a corner," says A. Men'shov, chief engineer of the "Severovostokzoloto" Association. "Without heavy-duty bulldozers at our worksites we cannot fulfill the plan, and the "T-500's" which we've received are throwing us into a financial abyss. The current sales price means that after overhead costs are taken into account, the balance price of a domestically produced bulldozer will reach 420,000 rubles in the Kolyma [Basin] and 476,000 rubles in Chukotka, which is twice as high as the imported machines. In terms of the total number of bulldozers received and of the entire volume of earthwork, this produces an annual rise in the cost of operations of 10 million rubles."

The enterprise has shifted to cost accounting. Consequently, no one except the enterprise itself will make up for its losses. So we must expect that the above-mentioned millions will be withdrawn from the social welfare development fund. Where else? That is why people who have been living for decades in awry huts will remain there for the foreseeable future.

"We constantly appeal to all levels of authority regarding the crude dictate of producers. But nothing is happening," says an indignant V. braiko, general director of "Severovostokzoloto." The latest happening is most graphic. G. Vedernikov, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, in January of this year obliged the USSR State Committee for Prices with the participation of the USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Engineering, the USSR Ministry of the Construction, Road, and Municipal Machinery Industries, the USSR Ministry of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy and other concerned organizations to carefully examine the question of the cost of the bulldozer-ripper, taking