

"Tyumenskaya Pravda" published an open letter to members of the USSR Supreme Soviet signed by sixteen scientists from Tyumen institutes. The authors were unanimous in their view that it was both practicable and sensible to decide in favor of creating a Tyumen petrochemical complex. At the same time they suggest that, for the short term, construction should be limited to only two petrochemical combines - in the cities of Surgut and Tobolsk - instead of five.

The trade union conference of the "Zapsibgidrostroy" [Western Siberia Hydroelectric Construction] Trust even sent a telegram to the USSR Supreme Soviet. In particular, the telegram says the following: "An extremely valuable raw material has been burning in the flares for twenty-five years. We feel that, with the transition to regional cost accountability, it is essential to develop in Western Siberia an ecologically clean petrochemical industry based on the most modern technology."

The Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union], having made a preliminary study of these and many other materials and documents concerning solutions to social problems, the work and life of workers in Western Siberia, and the comprehensive use of the region's valuable natural resources, heard a report on November 3 of this year from the USSR Council of Ministers concerning these matters.

Someone might wonder just why the Politburo of the Central Committee would interest itself in problems related to the more efficient development of natural resources and in the heated debates around the social and economical development of the region. After all, are these not political questions? Yes, it is precisely here that social and economic matters