

A. "They have had to cut their coat according to the cloth. Our scientists pointed out to them that an increase in the output of paper and an increase in national income are on the same curve. Since there has been almost no growth in national income during the last three Five Year Plans, from where would they have been able to get the funds for an accelerated development of the paper industry?"

Q. "New printing houses have been springing up like mushrooms after the rain. Where are they getting their stocks of paper? Is it not true that the burgeoning demand for the sector's products has persuaded the papermakers and communicators to sharply increase the price of paper? And here yet another tendency has become manifest: our enterprises, Vladimir Alekseevich, have begun to battle for a lower State production order, so that an ever increasing proportion of paper will be sold on foreign markets. How do you explain this tendency?"

A. "Quite simply. It is more advantageous to the enterprises to sell paper abroad than to fulfill the orders of domestic consumers. Judge for yourself: our publishing houses are paying 245 roubles for a ton of newsprint from the Kondopoga pulp and paper combine, but the foreign are houses willingly paying 420 dollars for every ton. Clearly, something has to be done about prices.

Again I say: the whole world knows that the forest is the nation's currency workshop. It stands to reason that if our forest resources are used thriftily, in contrast to oil and gas they will be self-sustaining and hence inexhaustible. Statistics show that our country leads the world in growing stocks of coniferous timber species (the most valuable for secondary conversion). Of 128 billion cubic metres, 67.3 billion, or more than half of the global stocks, fall to the share of the USSR. It is therefore all the more annoying that we have been unable for many decades to organize the secondary conversion of timber and that we are selling at relatively low prices logs, boards and cross-ties. But if there had been secondary conversion of this timber - if pulp and paper had been produced - the country would have been wealthy after these 70 years."