

The petroleum industry workers have taken the first steps on the path to achieving full regional cost accountability. Thus, according to agreements the Tyumen' workers are now supplying a specific quantity of oil to Belorussia and the Baltic Republics, and the latter in turn are building dwellings and everyday social and cultural amenities in a number of northern cities and villages.

The next step on this path, in the view of the industrial workers, should be to begin the conclusion of direct agreements with the oil refining enterprises. Knowing their capabilities and interests, maybe it will be possible to cooperate with them, expand production and obtain common profits. Such work, of interest to both parties, will make it possible to eliminate the present paradoxes caused by mismanagement. Everywhere today - in air transport, motor vehicle transport and agriculture - an acute shortage of fuel is being experienced. At the same time the industry's workers have nowhere to put the extracted oil and casing head gas, and since they do not have the capacity for processing them, they are not economically interested in obtaining the final product. Tongues of flame from a broad fraction of lightweight hydrocarbon, literally worth its weight in gold, are burning on the vast expanses of Western Siberia and they are also humming in thousands of holding furnaces operating on crude oil...

The establishment of fair prices for the raw material they extract will lead to a strengthening of the economic independence of the petroleum industry workers.

"According to the economists' calculations," says Deputy Minister of the Oil and Gas Industry and Head of Glavtyumenneftegaz V. Grayfer, "each ton of oil will give the national economy 1,400 rubles of pure profit. The extracting enterprises will receive only... 23 rubles from the state for each ton of "black gold," which means that