

These discharges on the rivers of Chukotka become the object of keen attention of agents at the prosecuting attorney's office of the Magadan region, especially of the investigating magistrate for cases of particular importance, V. Skryagin. A judiciary and ecological commission, which included scientists and experts, visited the places in question and studied in detail the circumstances under which this tragedy had occurred. Its conclusion, namely that the contamination of rivers rich in fish has caused a considerable loss for the state, has been supported, not only by documents, but also by the testimony of eyewitnesses. There were many such testimonies and the witnesses were unanimous: the developers have destroyed the river spawning-grounds, large reserves of fish and extensive hayfields.

But then, where were the members of the state commission who accepted and put into service the dried lakes and canal system? They limited themselves to the papers. Many of them did not even visit the site and signed the document with their eyes closed.

However, the decisive action by the prosecuting attorney's office, and then also by the district committee of the Party, forced many individuals to examine more soberly the situation existing in the Chukotka tundra. This, among other things, was also the case with the applied sciences conference that took place in Anadyr. It was attended by representatives of various scientific, industrial, and social organizations from Moscow, Leningrad, Vladivosktok, Magadan, Yakutsk, and Anadyr. Even one of the project authors - S.V. Tomirdiario, presently a department head at the Leningrad Agricultural Institute - was compelled to admit that the arctic meadows were degenerating. But he blamed the planners and the developers for it.