

Workers have been drawn toward books. I, for example, feel a dire shortage of economic and political knowledge. We don't need anymore of that "wait until the leaders think of it" stuff. Things are different now... Many of my comrades complain of imperfections in the Party and trade-union education system (despite the fact that they have recently still been "dozing off" at classes or else avoiding them altogether); they independently seek and study essential literature. In short, the process of regenerating social self-awareness has begun, and I consider this to be the most tangible result of economic restructuring.

We are nevertheless restructuring slowly, especially in economics. Bureaucratic traditions are still strong, in addition to an unthinking predisposition to executing decisions and orders, and an unwillingness or fear of assuming initiative and responsibility...

I.K.: What tasks in this situation do you - a conference delegate, a person whose opinion is respected in the collective - personally set before yourself?

O.Z.: To make sure that my comrades are imbued with the basic idea sounded at the conference and later from the rostrum of the Central Committee Plenum: the fate of economic restructuring depends on each one of us, on our civic stand, consciousness, activity, and on our performance at the workplace. I endeavour to set an example in this regard. To what extent I will succeed is not for me to judge.

Trud

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Translator's note: In this interview, the initials "O.Z." stand for O.M. Zakharova and "I.K." stand for I. Krasikov.