

Vladimir Slyusar' has already twice been hauled over the coals for "poking his nose in where it doesn't belong". He was sacked for absenteeism, which wasn't true, and the court reinstated him. They tried to take his driving licence. They have bullied him almost constantly, but he proved a hard nut to crack and he was helped by some higher organisations which intervened on his behalf.

Somebody or other in the Noyabr'skneftegaz** association badly wants to present the situation as though Slyusar' himself were not much liked by his fellow employees, as though they are all fed up with him. But his is obviously not true. Many of them come to him for advice and help, because they know him to be competent, fair and honest. They elected him to the commission for the fight against drunkenness, and now he is the head of the garage co-operative called Tatra. The workers would hardly have put their trust in a man with a doubtful reputation.

He is not alone in the fight for improvement. Over two hundred people signed the petition complaining that the workshops were too cold, there was nowhere to change, wash or eat. The workers wrote angrily that instead of improving the working conditions for the maintenance men, the bosses decided to build a new office building for the administration. The material incentive scheme is such that managers always get bonuses, but the drivers only get them if they should overfulfil their quotas. There is no glasnost (openness) when it comes to housing allocation or place in kindergartens; in fact, there is a lot that goes on behind closed doors. The way that the production process is managed needs reviewing and there are very many who do not like working for their money.