

"There is a particularly acute situation with the resettlement of people from dilapidated houses. Last year plans called for resettling 852 families out of four and a half thousand. We didn't make it."

Today, the oil workers' association is literally taking on everything--demolishing dilapidated housing, developing cities, and erecting social facilities. The existing economic mechanism under which "Nizhnevartovskneftegas" is operating is simply unable to sustain all of this and move ahead. Wouldn't it make more sense to take urban construction away from the oil workers and place it under Soviet authority in the form of the city executive committee? And why not distribute the role of customer among all the enterprises?

From Documentary Records of the Plenum of the Tyumen Oblast Committee of the CPSU (January 1990).

"The slogan 'All power to the soviets' sounds rather strange in this, the 73rd year of Soviet power, although we utter it often. Nevertheless, this is precisely the task which all Party committees must handle by securing personnel and working out relations between enterprises and the soviets. Local organs of power require a firm economic base. The economic relations of the centre and the regions need to be altered. In the U.S.A. for example, in the State of Texas, which in terms of potential plays approximately the same role as Tyumen does for the USSR, all companies producing oil and gas pay into the state budget up to 25% of the value of their production. In addition, up to 5% is given as charitable contributions to support secondary and higher education.