

Committee of the CPSU, and are discussing the next directive from on-high. And we think: time is passing and perestroika, they tell us, is gathering momentum. So why aren't the ministries and departments bearing their share of responsibility for the economic consequences of the decisions taken, and why are they continually interfering with the day-to-day management of our enterprises? Isn't there something illogical about the instruction from USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry to send millions of cubic metres of timber outside the Oblast' at a time when the sawmills at Archangel are standing idle due to a shortage of raw material? We have named our northern sawmill our "hole of debt" and feel ashamed to look people in the eye when they are "burning up" over the idle power saw benches, are losing wages and losing faith in the capacity of their administrators to put things right.

"Is it not paradoxical that we are shipping out timber in all directions and bringing it in from Tyumen', Sverdlovsk and Krasnoyarsk?

"Another bitter pill is the practice of drawing up the State order (Goszakaz). ... In 1988 and 1989 we repeatedly attempted to prove at Minlesprom SSSR the unrealism of the Goszakaz. For consumer goods other than foodstuffs it was set at 161 million roubles in 1988 and 191 million in the current year. The Association considers 112 and 126 million roubles to be more realistic figures. "You are calculating on the low side", they tell us, and everything remains as before. What sort of independence is this? There are dozens of similar examples.

"We annually transfer to a centralised fund a sum of about 300 million roubles. A part of these