

this was said from the podium at a trade union conference. And it wasn't just said by anybody, but by the manager of the trust.

Vladimir Slyusar' exposed the drinking habits of the directorate's chief engineer, and declared at the meeting that the administration and the trade union committee were trying to cover it up so that the employees would not know. Everything he said was proven, but again the management accused him of whipping up passions, and asked him why he thought it was any of his business.

So you can see how cleverly the tables are turned: Slyusar' is talking about things that are going wrong; the management is complaining about Slyusar. And so the centre of attention is switched from the roof that needs repairing, the wages that are being fiddled and the amoral conduct of a manager, to the "unhelpful scribblings of a trouble-maker and demagogue", who does nothing but sniff out problems and constantly whip up the employees, and prevent them from "living and working normally".

What bureaucrat will be pleased that Slyusar' is encouraging people to throw off the heavy burden of indifference and to realise that what happens today depends upon you personally? This attitude should be supported. After all, it is sure guarantee that perestroika will not get bogged down in the mire of half-measures, semi-reforms and half-truths. But the trust's managers never tire of repeating that it is precisely this "sniffing out" of problems that prevents the employees from "moving forward".