

telephone calls, I ask Valentin Pavlovich to characterize the situation on the water routes.

"Spring was long drawn out this year and brought quite a few surprises. There was a sudden warm spell in the European USSR in April, which caused intensive snow melt and a rapid rise in the water levels of river basins on the Upper and Middle Volga, the Vyatka, Vetluga, Luza, and Yug. But this was followed in many of the northern districts by a very considerable cold spell and snow fell in some areas. In the Kirov area, for example, the snow cover exceeded 10 cm as late as May 17. This, of course, delayed rafting operations; the movement and towing of rafts for floating birch became difficult in the Northwestern, Northern, and Northeastern districts, where raft construction points are located where the rafts can be removed by water. It became difficult, but it could not be put off; and this year, as never before, the great majority of rafting collectives in enterprises of the lumber industry had prepared themselves well. Of the 28 organizations in the Ministry of the Timber Industry of the USSR that are engaging in rafting this year, only Murmanles, Amurlesprom, and the Ust'-Ilimsk Timber Industry Complex have not yet begun work, due to hydrometeorological conditions."

Our conversation is interrupted by the ringing of the telephone. The following note is entered in the operational data book: "All rafts have been lifted off and towed from the raft construction points of the Kostromalesprom, Kirovlesprom, Permlesprom, Arkhangel'sklesprom, and Komilesprom industrial associations."

Having settled, quickly and in a business-like manner, a number of problems that had