

Come on Guys, Get to Work!

I work with the Chaun Geological Prospecting Expedition as the driver of a "Kirovets 701" tractor. Our vehicle unit is small, but it is constantly being stirred up by various squabbles. The most important cause of the trouble is the unhealthy morale and psychological atmosphere, which the administration and the Party Committee themselves force on us. For any criticism of the management, the latter starts to badger the workers involved, like hunters after hares. They inflict various punishments on them and even provoke a man, in order to goad him into starting some sort of trouble. This is what makes the workers fight among themselves.

Once the workers started demanding that the Director, Yu. Zhelikhov, be fired for his wrongful actions against the workers. However, the administration and the Party Committee put up a wall of resistance in order to protect Zhelikhov. A whole farce was staged, in which the deputy editor-in-chief of the local newspaper Polyarnaya Zvezda and the local radio correspondent took part. At a farcical meeting, the latter both assured us that Zhelikhov would be fired. However, it was not long before Zhelikhov suddenly went off on leave and we were told that the matter would be dealt with when he came back to work. During the five months he was away, people's feelings calmed down and the whole business was somehow smoothed over. But this is not even the point.

Now, once more, various conflicts are flaring up. The main problem involves the transition to the profit and loss accounting system and self-financing. The administration tells us: "Get out and work harder, while we increase the average