

How are the combines coping? The orders received by them from the state aren't balanced with the resources either.

The Var'yegan combine, for example, which has lagged behind for many years, has applied for a long-term loan, and got it. Others are still thinking about it but they may be too late. Various situations arise. Let us say, a mining enterprise considers the situation on the basis of the available statistics, i.e. to contract the construction work out to other organizations, or to develop its own analogous organizations which would not be interested in inflating prices. We know that this has made the contractors nervous because an element of competition has appeared.

Unfortunately, the new methods of management are not yet being introduced in the lowermost collectives, the brigades. Collective contract agreements are made under pressure. The people do not believe that the administration will ensure a steady supply of resources. Much depends on Gossnab\*; the transfer of some of its functions to territorial offices has created a certain amount of confusion.

How are the other parties behaving?

The power-industry workers are just as irresponsible as ever. At the end of the year, a great deal of oil was lost because of them. This

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\* State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for the Supply of Materials and Machinery - transl.