

countrymen in Udachnyi. I believe a practice, whereby regions are robbed down to the last kopeck, their profits and produce in excess of plan seized, to be intolerable. Their representatives are then forced to go begging, appear before the "authorities" in the role of petitioners, thankfully accepting their "handouts." You will recall that worker-delegates raised this matter at the Party conference.

The social sphere in Yakutia is in a rudimentary state, worse, in my opinion, than anywhere. Imagine: even a course of medical treatment is prescribed by doctors often on the basis of the availability of required medicine... In my address to the Party conference I tried to speak as authentically as possible about our life in order that the delegates, and first of all the leaders, appreciated and understood the fact that the North has its own specific social problems, which require individual consideration by various Union organs of power and the USSR Council of Ministers.

During free time away from session, in the "corridors," as they say, I met with several leaders on whom depend the solution of issues vital to the lives of Yakut residents. I asked, persuaded, insisted... Incidentally, many delegates from the country emerged as "pushers" - such is the custom... But is this right? Why is it necessary to keep asking for that which has been rightfully earned. The diamond-bearing North and Yakutia contribute directly to the country's currency reserve. And would it not be far more fair for us ourselves to determine what we need (produce, medicines, equipment, special housing) and what we buy in our country and even from abroad?