

produced for this sector each year. This flow of furniture should be stopped. Let the bureaucrats sit on old chairs and give the new furniture to the people.

Approximately 77 million cubic metres of timber end up as waste in the Soviet Union annually and only 43 million cubic metres are used in production. Obviously we should be logging less timber and making better use of wood wastes.

V.V. Antanaytis, Department Chief of the Lithuanian Agricultural Academy:

The Environmental Concerns and Rational Utilization of Natural Resources Committee has received many letters of complaints against Busygin and the Ministry of the Timber Industry, citing incidents of anti-environmental policy and environmental degradation. We have divided the "sins" of the Ministry into four groups. Our first concern centres on the depletion of forests in inhabited regions of the country. Our forests are threatened. No-one needs to tell us where this will lead. It is quite a paradox that here in the world's richest forest nation there is currently a shortage not just of timber but of paper and other wood products.

Secondly, the Ministry is clearly unable to deal with the environmental problem. The forest destruction results in an ecological imbalance. This can be seen in many regions of the country. Large-scale environmental pollution can also be observed. Only one third of the Ministry's enterprises have purification facilities and in most instances these plants are poorly run.