

(Telex from Urai)

Urai was one of the first oil towns in Tyumen'. At the time, someone decided it was too costly to build a fully fledged residential housing enterprise in this isolated town, cut off from railways and major waterways. And now the residents of Urai are paying for this, languishing in housing queues with no end in sight.

"Pay attention to our concerns as well!"

(Telephone call from Langepas)

On a first examination, it seems almost sinful that Langepas should complain about its fate. Having been seconded here, the Byelorussian Minstroi trust is honourably answering, for the second five-year plan in a row, the Party's and government's call to help Siberians. Every year it puts up 70,000 square metres of excellent housing and three day-care centres. It is building schools, shops, a Palace of Culture, etc. And yet, year in year out, many facilities urgently needed by the town do not make their way into the Byelorussian's plans. By now there are almost twenty of them, for a total value of 48 million roubles: a milk plant, a sausage factory, a water intake/supply, etc.

"We must have our own general contractor!" - cry the "town fathers", knocking at whatever doors they can find. Last year it seemed that the situation would be unfrozen. While visiting Langepas, Yu. Batalin, the chairman of Gosstroi, who is also vice-chairman of Sovmin Soyuz, instructed units of Minneftegazstroi to take on the task of building purification facilities and a water intake/supply. And - nothing happened. The powerful