

## TRANSPORT-WATER

### Kandalaksha Seaport Needs Business

Troubles in the life of a country inevitably lead to troubles in the life of each of its citizens. Today, the truth of this strikes you wherever you look. Something similar is happening with the Kandalaksha Commercial Maritime Port. No matter what you think of it, you can see that "personal" problems of the labour collective are linked directly to the existence of "sore spots" in our economy, and especially to a lack of balance between its individual parts.

The port suffers from a chronic shortage of work. Figures do little to explain people's mood, but they are an essential point of reference for the conversation. Even though the summer navigation season is particularly bad and things are far below normal, still the port continues to operate and justifies its existence; but during the off-season from October to May only 10 to 15% of its capacity is utilized.

By September, when the navigation season is drawing to a close, the port officials' worries increase sharply. They have to solve the problem of jobs for people - finding a place to send the specialists so that they don't lose their qualifications over the long winter, and, as a result, their income and the other elements of their social status. And so, in the winter, relatives in Kandalaksha receive a flood of letters whose authors can rightly say about themselves, in the words of song, "my address is the Soviet Union," wherever you might meet them: in Riga, Klaipeda, Osetrovo, Dudinka.

Not waiting for a full crisis, port officials are already looking for ways of keeping people employed in the city itself: perhaps opening a clothing factory or something else. But I find this kind of solution somewhat sad. Aren't people here, in the grip of hopelessness,