

think up a more advantageous system for the author. Yet surely it would be more in keeping with the spirit of the times to calculate everything depending on the finished product: if the book sells you get the full fee; if the readers want an additional edition - you would then get the royalties without any adjusted reductions.

Why is such a large amount of paper wasted in this way? Is there no-one in the country to exert control over its effective use? According to the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry, this is up to the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply's Main Administration for the Supply and Marketing of Paper Products (Soyuzglavbum).

"The thing is," I.S. Kharitonov, Chief of the Soyuzglavbum Administration, explains, "that the paper used in printing is considered to be a special case. We supply it to the publishing houses and printing presses but can't really say what happens to it later."

It really would be difficult for I.S. Kharitonov to answer this question. In order to do this, the Administration would have to check the effectiveness of paper utilization at least once. It has every right to do this. But it has never exercised this right. Yes, and what is there to check if, according to officialdom, the paper, having become a book, is no longer paper.

Thus it would appear to be up to the USSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants and the Book Trade. But here as well, Yu.I. Kabikov, Chief of the Paper Section, tells us that control over the utilization of printing paper is carried out selectively and periodically. Furthermore, only the grade of the paper supplied is checked.