

will be an increase in output, only an increase in costs. The oil field workers are waiting for recommendations from the scientists and the latter don't want to take the responsibility. This is understandable, for in this situation you are venturing into unknown territory, while at the same time there is no predicting whether the results will be positive or not.

The cost of this flimflam is even more obvious in the example of the experimental section of the Permo-Carboniferous deposits at the Usinsk field. For many years now the "Soyuztermneft'" Scientific industrial Association has been developing the technology for increasing the yield from strata. The purpose of these studies is to obtain a soundly based and reliable evaluation of how efficient it is to produce oil using steam-thermal techniques. But how can one speak of the reliability of data, when in the race for output figures, they include the output from drill holes which have so far showed no reaction to the pumping in of heat-transfer agents? On paper this produces really unrestrained growth in the so-called efficiency coefficient, which has now reached 0.90.

Local specialists have often tried to refute this inflated figure, but without success. The calculations are carried out miles away from the actual production site, in Krasnodar, where the "Soyuztermneft'" Scientific Industrial Association is based. The Association is part of the "Nefteotdacha" Inter-industry Scientific and Technical Complex. This interest in such paper "tightrope-walking" is understandable, since the bonuses the Association receives are based on the total economies which are achieved.