

Or, imagine that it has suddenly grown cold. To provide the workers' settlement with heat, a single over-the-limit fuel supplement is needed. Do we turn to the Ministry? It would take till spring to get an answer. Our only hope is Gorgaz which, depending on the mood of management, may or may not find extra reserves.

It is, therefore, not surprising that most of the consumers who happen to save some gas prefer to keep this fact to themselves. The fuel is either burnt up in torches, or, having paid for the unused fuel, the latter is sent farther along the pipeline.

What if the plant managers do decide to wage an open war on wastefulness despite all the consequences, and all the objective data related to this are sent to the central economic planning bodies? Well, the zealots of economy will have a pretty hard time then. They'll be "suffocated" with all the same limits.

In the gas-limit policy, there reigns the repeatedly criticized, but still prospering principle "based on achievements". Those who have increased gas consumption are known for this tendency in the years to come, while those who have managed to save have their limits reduced in advance.

"Some smart-alecs cut them to such an extent that we had a fuel shortage of about 17,000,000m³ this year", says V. Kuznetsov.

Knowing all this, one isn't surprised by that intentionally created confusion that prevails in the policy of material incentive for saving gas. Judging by the accounts, enterprises spend quite a