

port and the Archangel division of the Severnaya/Northern/Railway Line started to argue about whose responsibility it was to ship the potatoes by sea.

"Then both agencies started attacking me," your reporter was told by the Director of the Archangel Transport and expediting Division of the Murmansk Branch of the Noril'sk Trade Administration, V. Shestakov. "But I don't have those powers. I sent off telegrams to the authorities involved and now I'm waiting for a reply..."

That's a familiar and disturbing recurrence of what happened in previous years. The agencies involved have created a barrage of telephone and telegram red tape, while the potatoes are going bad in those stuffy railway cars. What is also disturbing is the fact that so far they haven't settled the question of who will monitor the quality of the fruit and vegetable produce at the transshipment port and how they will go about doing it. The state inspection board is avoiding the job, on the grounds that they have suffered manpower reductions and have a shortage of specialists. The Noril'sk Trade Administration hasn't sent any representatives.

It might seem that these are petty unsettled issues, but in the past they have led to a considerable number of layovers and to various losses. Is this depressing experience going to be repeated this year as well?

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