

Council of Ministers, the State Planning Commission (Gosplan), the State Committee for Material and Technical Supplies (Gossnab) and the State Committee for Forestry (Gosksomles), as well as by many officials of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry. Today, I am the only one they are trying to whip publicly.

The point is that in past years, while understanding the unsubstantiated nature of their positions, the managers at sector headquarters have persistently compelled the Association to submit unreal timber resources for delivery. And what benefits they promised for all this! Reimbursement for fines, fantastic monetary incentives and many other things. Even today the pressure has not been lifted one iota. State production orders imposed by the Ministry exceeded the attained level by 1.5 - 2.5 fold. The figure for pit props was 155%, and for export saw timber - 249%. In order to scale those "paper" heights the Association had to increase its logging by no less than five million cubic metres. If you take into account that we have stopped loose floating and the cutting of cedar stands this type of planning cannot be called anything but absurd.

I would also like to mention another factor which for some reason, has not yet been given any thought at the top, i.e. the fact that the local population is becoming more and more hostile to any further encroachment of the logging industry on the taiga. They almost took to arms in the Sym River area of the Yenisei region, to give you one example. Since August of 1989 over 30,000 man days and approximately a million rubles have been spent in an effort to prove to the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry the impracticability of the task. On top of this must be added the cost of dozens of daily written and telephoned responses to one and the same inquiries, of daily participation in two or three analyses by selector telephony, of 138