

The well-defined program of development for the oblast calls for accelerated development of the social sphere, especially in the construction of housing and cultural and public services. A similar program has been drawn up by the labour collective of the steamship line. In order to carry out this program and to fully meet the demands of maritime workers for housing by the year 2000, plans call for increasing new apartment openings from all financing sources from 150 to 400 per year. At the same time, one third of this construction will be conducted in accordance with the self accounting method using both funds and labour resources of the steamship line.

How should we carry out this program? At a conference of the heads of various departments it was decided to analyze the problem of housing development using the economic method. Four issues were brought up for discussion and, as the experts reported, no radical solution was found for any of them. And so it was still unclear who in fact would take responsibility for supplying equipment and materials to the building sites, how to organize delivery of these materials to the construction sites in strict accordance with the work schedule and make the qualified construction specialists available, or who would do the planning and what resources would be used.

It used to be that everything foundered on financing. There were no funds for housing construction outside of the plan. Now there are funds: in the last year alone 10 million rubles in profits from plan fulfillment went into the steamship line's bank account. But investing this money in construction (as paradoxical as it seems) has proved to be a difficult matter.