

longer enough. Officials in Leningrad really shocked us when they announced that the city's construction detachments would be leaving Urengoi within a year. It's the people from Leningrad who built the lion's share of the housing here."

"A recent government decree, however, speaks about the need to provide additional assistance to the people of Siberia..."

"But the city fathers on the Neva it would seem, do not consider it a good idea. Imagine what would happen if one fine day we, the gas industry workers, decide that it's "not a good idea" to produce natural gas for Leningrad. What then? The association, like the entire sector, is self-financing. Natural gas is a marketable commodity. We could find buyers..."

We won't reproach the director of the gas enterprise for hot-headedness - the prospect of an impending crash compels him to sound the alarm. But are he and other gas association directors not spreading it on a little too thick? After all, is it really possible to extricate ourselves from this crisis through diligent conservation of fuel and energy without a further growth in production? Deputy Gorynin, in his address to the Second Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR, cited figures from a Japanese research institute: by switching to modern energy-saving technology the USSR could save one-eighth of its entire energy output. Let's pray to God that this switch happens as soon as possible. But let's be realists - we are still a long way from achieving this level of savings. And that means that reducing the extraction rate of natural gas, oil and condensate would be injurious. It should be added that exporting these types of energy resources and chemical raw products will bring the country the hard currency it so desperately needs. By the way, agreements to supply natural gas to our western partners remain in force. If there is too little natural gas, this