

In order to assess the opinion of communists in Tyumen Oblast, M.S. Gorbachev invited G.P. Bogomyakov First Secretary of the Tyumen Oblast Committee of the CPSU, to speak at the Politburo meeting.

The question on the agenda for this meeting of the Politburo, the speaker said, is of vital importance for us Communists and for all workers of the Oblast. Indeed, the future of the region depends on its solution. When you visited us in September 1985, Mikhail Sergeevich, you were already saying that the Western Siberian Oil and Gas Complex was entering a new phase of its development and that it should make the transition from a raw material to a processing orientation. It was precisely this that brought about the decisions which followed regarding construction of major petrochemical complexes in our region. The residents of numerous cities and towns took an active part in the debate of this question.

The current point of view in the Oblast, the speaker continued, is that we should not get carried away with megalomania. Considering the financial difficulties of the country, we should concentrate our resources on the most urgent projects of greatest need to the people. Unfortunately, as we debate, the flares are burning. Just since the recent major accident in Bashkiria and the suspension of operations on the Western Siberia - Urals - Volga product pipeline, over 2 million tons of gasoline fractions have continued to burn. There are proposals in the Oblast to establish enterprises in Surgut, Novyi Urengoi and Tobolsk which would process native hydrocarbons and produce such urgently required goods as polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, etc. Construction of the first phase of these plants will require 5.5 billion rubles. These preliminary plans