

to co-ordinate such goods exchange, not restrict their initiative. I say this not without purpose, since for the present, the export of any above-plan produce manufactured by an enterprise under Union jurisdiction is met with resistance by higher agencies. What is worse, at times authorization is given when the external market has lost interest in the given product.

We are also concerned with the following. Each year the RSFSR Ministry of Trade apportions market allocations for various products, including sea products, produced by Murmansk fleets. The portion of this produce not in demand by the population is sold in Finland. Scarce meat and milk products are bought up with the earned currency. A setup which is naturally of benefit to us, the province, and the State. But often the executives of the USSR Ministry of Fisheries, obviously in pursuit of gross index figures on the internal market, deprive the province of the right to handle even a portion of what is, in essence, their disposable resources.

Each year, the Executive Committee of the Provincial Soviet of People's Deputies together with enterprise management are forced to undergo a long process of reconciliation with the USSR State Planning Committee, the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, ministries and departments in order to obtain export authorization for borderline shipments of various products. And this is notwithstanding the fact that these products (which are in demand on the external market) are occasionally, for one reason or another, in abundance here at home. As a result, we lose the opportunity to obtain foreign exchange earnings. This is what happened, for example, with the apatite concentrate in 1986-1987, and this is not the only example.

I believe that the issuance of government purchase orders in borderline trade should be prescribed not for a one-year, but a five-year period, including