

would seem that he has every reason to be satisfied with the initial steps, in that the financial situation of the enterprises has improved and for the first time in many years there has been overfulfillment of the plan for profit. Also, the increase in labour productivity in relation to salaries has improved, which today is one of the most important indices of all.

But despite the successes to hand, the concerns and fears of the General Director are greater than the satisfactions.

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Q. "Valerii Stepanovich, at a recent plenary session of the Central Committee of the Trade Union and the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry, problems relating to the social conditions in our sector were examined. "Arkhangel'sklesprom" was heavily criticised over housing, construction of pre-school institutions and the output of consumer goods. We found confirmation of this in the course of visits to a number of your enterprises. There were numerous complaints about poor working conditions, sub-standard living accommodation and food etc."

A. "Agreed. But these problems did not come into being yesterday. And I am convinced that no wave of a magic wand will make them go away tomorrow. For they are underlain by a composite of errors: economic, social, psychological and ecological. I could continue the list. The problem is, which thread should be pulled if we are to untangle this ball? Where is the main link in the chain that must be grasped? There is no single answer. One thing is clear: each of us must embark