

I do not like to overdo the use of figures but just cannot help citing them in this case. For the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 commodity output increased by 6 percent. The production of sawn timber reached 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7 million cubic metres; standard dwellings amounted to 293,000, 320,000, and 333,000 square metres; paper production was 93, 104 and 107 tons; and the productivity of labour amounted to 13,200, 14,000, and 15,000 rubles. The profit balance was 142, 209, and 236 million rubles. Do these statistics paint a worrisome picture? Certainly not.

Yet it is essential to deal with the topic of "disintegration" for it is on this very subject that all the rest of the complaints focus. The trouble is that in four years of the current Five-Year Plan the Association has undersupplied the national economy by 7.6 million cubic metres of commercial timber. A negative? On the one hand, undoubtedly so, but on the other, while the Association failed to fulfil the plan by that much, it managed, during the very same period, to increase its volume of production by 6.8 million cubic metres, its output of sawn timber by 1,088,000 cubic metres, and its commodity output by 336 million rubles in 1982 prices. How should we assess these factors? Our calculations show that the prime cause of this dead-end situation lies in the unfounded policies of the ministry's administrative apparatus in the planning of product deliveries to consumers. Sector headquarters has failed completely to take objective reality into account, i.e. the size, quality and type of timber available in the enterprises' allowable cut. And on top of that, each year we were undersupplied with timber reserves for sawmilling and woodworking purposes, as well as for maintenance and operational needs. Due to the above, "paper" volumes of up to 2 - 3 million cubic metres were created annually. The unsubstantiated nature of these plans is confirmed in reports by officials of the USSR