

MISCELLANEOUS

Old Guard Hampers Reforms In Soviet Forestry Industry

The current difficult, even critical situation in enterprises under the USSR Ministry of the Forestry Industry (Minlesprom) in Tyumen' province has forced me on behalf of several thousand workers to appeal to the heads of the USRR Ministry of Highways and Transport, the Ministry of the Forestry Industry and USSR Gosbank*. There are two main issues worrying many employees in the forestry industry, and which have reached boiling point: these are the dearth of railcars for transporting finished products and the restrictions that were imposed this year on wages, which have meant a drop in people's standard of living.

The employees of the Komsomol'sk Forestry Enterprise are working on a self-sufficient and self-financing basis. It is particularly important for them to sell their products. If we cannot dispatch it, this means that we get no money for it. And, without money, one cannot survive in a cost-efficient system; not only is there not enough for operations, but not enough for wages.

Perestroika demands that everyone work energetically and show initiative. And we are trying to give support to perestroika and to make our contribution to bolstering the country's economic foundation. Last year, the employees of the Komsomol'sk Forestry Enterprise completed all the tasks they had been set: they over-fulfilled the profit objective and payed off all their debts from previous years. Today, out of the six forestry enterprises in the industry, we are the only profitable one in our region.