

market a tonne of paper costs 245 to 260 roubles at the price fixed by the State, but on the other hand it is 10 to 20 times dearer when sold in the form of newsprint. As a consequence of the steadily decreasing profitability of production (rising prices of the machines, raw material, chemicals and power transmission lines, increases in the transportation tariffs and rising expenditures on environmental protection) the paper combines are becoming impoverished. Conversely, the publishers, by increasing the runs of newspapers, magazines and books, are prospering.

In order to cover the domestic requirements for paper it has become necessary to purchase it abroad, where the price of it is constantly rising. It is precisely by this means that the conscientious consumers are getting by. But a paradox has been created: the country is exporting paper and at the same time importing it, at the cost of large amounts of currency due to the price differential.

Why don't the wealthy publishing houses like "Pravda", "Izvestiya", "Literaturnaya gazeta", "Novosti Press Agency" and the cooperatives purchase paper for currency at our combines, thereby promoting a strengthening of the domestic pulp and paper industry? Nothing of the sort is happening. The publishers are putting pressure on the government, Gosplan and Gossnab, the latter are doing the same to the Ministry of the Timber Industry, which in turn puts pressure on the regional timber industries, until the papermakers lose their last chance to rectify their disastrous situation through independent sales of their output - either at contracted prices or through a mutually advantageous exchange of products.

#### THE UNCONTROLLED MARKET

For many it remains guesswork as to where the independent publishers are getting their paper. While there are several leakage channels for circumventing the shortage,