

Q. "The work of a deputy is very complex and requires a lot of time. Doesn't this interfere with creative work?"

A. "Prior to my parliamentary work I wrote about 12 books of poetry and prose. I've always been inspired by the subject of ecology - of nature and morality. This year the Central Urals Publishing House will bring out a new book of stories entitled Waiting for a Son. One of the stories in the book - "On the Spawning River" - is devoted to the subject of a growing lack of spirituality. The story tells of how outsiders, in only three or four navigation seasons, destroyed a river which had previously been the preferred site for the spawning of rare fish.

Now, of course, there is little time for creative work. The most important thing is the mandate from my constituents."

Q. "And what is it your constituents are asking you to do?"

A. "I've received hundreds of letters in the past months. Acting on their requests I have made 150 demands, especially of comrades Ryzhkov, Lukyanov, Vorotnikov, Voronin and Nikitin, of the ministers of internal affairs, of construction of oil and gas industry enterprises, etc. I am working on introducing a unified salary coefficient for northern peoples, and a solution to the problem of border regulations, which at times can be simply absurd: A Nenets or Khanty who lives within a particular district must request permission to travel in order to visit his relatives in another region.

I believe that the problems of the North can be solved successfully. My region is already rolling up its sleeves. The most important thing is to help it along!"

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