

The initial cost of the project--83,000 rubles--seemed to be much too high to someone at the Ministry of Public Health of the Karelian ASSR, and the estimate was reduced to 56,000 rubles. As a result of such an "operation" the hospital "lost" its basement and its air-conditioning system (and this in the infectious disease unit!), while the linoleum, moreover, was put down on the bare cement as an economy measure... Ignoring all the numerous defects and the protests of the physicians, the State Commission signed the acceptance report for the building, and a dedication ceremony was held for the new wing in December 1984. This ceremonial opening, however, was followed by a not quite so ceremonial "closing"...

What measures is the rayon leadership getting ready to implement in order to save the hospital? V. Nazarov, Deputy Chairman of the Rayon Executive Committee, could only spread his hands...

"I have been working here too short a time and I have not yet got my bearings completely," declared V. Kilkoev, First Secretary of the Rayon Party Committee--who has, as a matter of fact, been occupying this post for two years already. "Well, if they come up with the necessary resources for me, I'll figure out something..."

What is this? "Ostrich" politics or incredible coolness? And in the meantime the ordeal of a struggle for survival goes on for the patients and the staff of the Muezerskii Hospital.

Trud

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