

the Central Scientific Research Institute of Mechanization and Power Engineering in the Timber Industry, and L.I. Bauer, Chief Engineer of the Abakan Mechanical Plant, came to visit the Association. They became familiar with the actual state of affairs. Nevertheless, at the meeting that took place in the Ministry it was decided to continue to manufacture the VM-4A, while increasing its reliability and improving its ergonomics.

In this way the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry and the "Soyuzlesremmash" Association have voted in favour of outmoded machinery. This doesn't put the Central Scientific Research Institute of Mechanization and Power Engineering in the Timber Industry in a good light: as the head scientific-research institute it simply has to bring progress to the industry, but instead of that it champions a useless model because of "sentimental attachments".

We shouldn't fail to include yet another bit of information in our analysis. The VM-4A models are used primarily in the "Krasnoyarsklesprom" and "Irkutsklesprom" associations. The Irkutsk workers, who have 140 of these machines, this year could refuse a part of the fund due to them. But, strange as it may seem, the Krasnoyarsk loggers who have 300 feller-skidder multi-unit machines, cannot do the same thing. The problem is that supplies of LP-19s have not increased since 1982. Each year we received a miserly twenty to thirty units. Given the severe shortage of manpower we can't refuse even a VM-4A. The problem of skidding technology is even worse: in 1981 we received 170 such machines but last year only 90. Funds for choker tractors were halved in the same period as well.