

are preoccupied with fulfilling the production plan. If this isn't done, heads will roll. Until recently, only fines were levied - and paid out of state funds - for purification facilities which do not work, for polluted waste water far in excess of allowable levels, and for atmospheric pollution."

"The same is true of the timber-cutting industry. There are directives which have existed for some time instructing that forests must be replanted in equal measure to the timber-felling carried out in them, that rivers must be cleaned after wood has been floated down them, and so on. Unfortunately, our actions do not match our words."

Q. "Your assessment of the situation is very harsh. Where are the guilty parties to be found? Who are they?"

A. "I understand your question: it is very important to identify the wrong-doers, especially in this matter. Yet it would be all too easy to point an accusing finger at someone and bring charges against him. The situation is not that simple. Environmental protection is a function of all the ministerial sub-divisions. The responsibility should be borne by all of the Ministry's executive officers. I repeat that the people most directly responsible are the plant managers and staff of the many enterprises where the serious harm being done to the environment is treated with indifference. There is no doubt that, as the head of the Ministry's Environmental Protection and Water Usage Division, I too must be held responsible."

"It is time for the State Planning Commission to reflect on this situation: the