

But along with notes of pride, we sensed dismay and disappointment in Victor Albertovich's words:

"You must understand that we cannot give any sort of assurance that this selfless labour of many people will not be in vain. Today it's still not clear where and, most importantly, how we are to build."

...We caught V. Filin, Deputy Director of "Yamalgazprom", engaged in a curious pastime. In a smoke-filled room of the dormitory he was drawing a bridge on an ordinary sheet of paper from a pupil's notebook.

Valery Yakovlevich throws up his hands: "Here's the sort of creative activity which one ends up pursuing. but what's to be done? Contractors want working drawings of some sort. Now the bridge will not be built; impassable roads will prevent us from reaching loading terminals; consignments will not be delivered to their destinations. Of course I understand that I have no right to take the place of the design institutes, but I see no other alternative. And now that my bridge is done, I'll start on the dining hall..."

It's surprising, but true: builders, as it turns out, still do not have the required design documents at their disposal. There were stormy debates in the USSR Ministry of the Gas Industry when the question of which institute was to take on the difficult and honourable responsibility of general designer of the Bovanenkovo gas field. Tyumen gas producers and builders had expected to open up Yamal on the basis of formulations from their long-standing partner, "Yuzhniigiprovoz" in Donetsk, whose