

In the current Five-Year Plan, in comparison with the 9th there has been a 9-fold decrease in the start-up of plants for the production of paperboard and only half as many papermaking capacities have been placed in service. The construction of new installations is buried in the plans of a distant tomorrow.

Gosplan (the State Planning Commission) has been constantly cutting back on capital investments in the sector both in the logging complex and in secondary conversion of the timber, i.e. in the production of pulp, paperboard and paper. Many blunders of this kind rest on the consciences of A.I. Lukashov, V.P. Tatarinov and the other officials of Gosplan who are responsible for the sector. What the country needs right now is a scientifically validated programme, developed in detail, to rescue it from a blind alley and breathe new life into the sector as a whole.

#### STARVATION RATIONS

As a consequence of the information explosion, a state of crisis exists in the production of newsprint. The rapid growth in the circulations and the increase in the sizes of many periodicals (such as the single run of the newspapers "Trud" and "Komsomol'skaya Pravda" in excess of 20 million copies, and of "Argumenty i Fakty" in excess of 34 million; the fact that "Pravda" and "Izvestiya" have begun to be issued in 5 sheets and "Sovetskaya Kul'tura" in 10); the appearance of an incalculable number of weeklies, heralds and bulletins, chiefly in the form of "independents"; and the disruptions in the work of the paper combines and in shipments of paper rolls to consumers have placed the publishing houses on starvation rations. In some of them the monthly and six weekly working stocks of paper have shrunk to amounts sufficient for one day only, in others they have fallen to zero. There were instances when, in a number of regions, the mass newspapers interrupted their daily editions and reduced the production volumes.