

"Non-fulfillment of the State order has affected us very badly", say the disheartened workers. "We are being deprived of bonuses, deductions to pay for social needs, housing, reconstruction and renovation of productive plant."

Here is the text of an urgent telegram to the First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, L. Voronin:

"The collective of the 'Kondopogabumprom' Association is again appealing to you on account of the extremely difficult situation here. In October the railway workers failed to provide for the removal of 5,217 tonnes of paper, in November the figure was 6,724 tonnes and for the first thirteen days of December, 3,476 tonnes... Once again, we ask you to take immediate corrective action."

I visited the Combine three days after that telegram was sent. With the arrival of the second shift, an emergency session took place in the General Director's office which without exaggeration could only be called a council of war. Several officers from the fire protection administration of the Karelian Ministry of Internal Affairs were demanding that the papermaking machines be shut down, since the evacuation routes for employees were blocked up and the accesses to the firefighting equipment had been cut off.

I wandered over to the loading area, where there were mountains of paper rolls and ... silence. Although many dozens of freight cars would be needed to restore rhythm in the shipping operations, only four refrigerator cars were standing on the approach routes. These, of course, are not equipped to haul paper, but meat, fish and other perishables.