

planned, far-sighted approach to gas and oil extraction.

It is clear that a well-planned approach today is one based on science - the knowledge, means and methods which science provides to the industrial sector. I think the time is not far away when we will understand that the most advanced scientific fields should be as well funded as the defense budget - maybe even better. It is pure science and its research where all the revolutionary processes and changes in the economy and life begin. It is very sad that we often try to save money on science, which we distrust, cheating ourselves in the process. Recently we proposed a project to a Tyumen industrial enterprise by means of which machine spare parts would be simplified 5-6 times over. The idea was met with excitement, but then rejected. The explanation was that funds were not available for such a project now that the enterprise operates on a profit and loss basis.

This is an isolated example, but it is highly indicative of our approach to science, on both a small scale and a large scale. The idea of creating an "applied science zone" around Akademgoradok, ie. the relevant ministries would establish design offices in this area to apply the ideas of pure science, was not carried through as it should have been. For instance, the Ministry of Geology opened an office for the design of geophysical instruments, and then several months later began to assign various secondary tasks to the office, pushing the primary tasks into the background. It was a triumph of near-sighted bureaucratic meddling.