

PULP AND PAPER

Price of Printing Paper Soars On Account
of Burgeoning Demand

For many years now, newspaper publishers and printing trades workers have maintained strong business links with the Kondopoga and Balakhna pulp and paper combines. They have often come to the aid of each other. Perestroika, however, is bringing a new dimension to these relationships. Today, the directors of the paper combines can frequently be heard saying: "If you want to be given priority in receiving our products, you must pay more for them. And if you want our collective to be a dependable supplier in the future then invest money for the development of production." In short, today's "friendship" must be sustained economically. Even the slightest misunderstanding of this will lead to interruptions in deliveries of paper to the country's publishing houses.

"Up to and including strike action, our collective intends to fight for a reduction in the State production order (Goszakaz) says V. Gerasimov, Secretary to the Party Committee at the Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Combine (PPC). "Otherwise, we shall find ourselves in an economic depression..."

And this is not just talk. The papermakers of Solikamsk and Balakhna have similarly spoken out against the goszakaz. The Ministry of the Timber Industry and the USSR Council of Ministers have been forced to make concessions to these three giants. Several tens of thousands of tons of newsprint were left for the collectives to sell as they please.