

guaranteeing social security. If we take those young mothers I mentioned before, their enterprises have to resort to all types of legal trickery to ensure their uninterrupted work record. We are trying to take the interests of all social groups into consideration. The allowance for single mothers is 50 roubles higher than the average. Several nursery groups in child day-care centres will be reserved for their children and for children from large families. On the whole, our new policies have met with full support."

Sidorchev's strength as a Party leader lies in the fact that he is surrounded by people who share his ideas. He is well-known in Nizhnevartovsk. Only 10 years ago he began working here as a machine-fitter, then he held a number of managerial positions, and is now an experienced oil industry worker. He knows first-hand the needs of those living in the North. People in Nizhnevartovsk recall his decision not to consider unsigned complaints made even before appropriate instructions were issued on this matter. It was at his initiative that the first neighbourhood cultural and sports centre was opened, where a man could spend his day off with his family. I saw Victor Sidorchev alone in his office, at meetings, and in a gym he visits in the evenings to relax on the volleyball court after a long day. He will often begin a lively discussion of his latest idea before he has even caught his breath after a game.

"There is no need for perestroika as far as Siberians' eagerness to work is concerned," Sidorchev says, smiling. "Their energy just needs to be channeled in the right direction. We can't sit back and relax today - we are living at an exciting time."

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