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PRESENT ORGANIZATION OF CONSTRUCTION WORK
PROVES INEFFICIENT, HAMPERS INDUSTRIALIZATION

MOSCOW ORGANIZATIONS CRITICIZED -- Moskovskaya Pravda, 8 Sep 50

During the recent conference of construction workers in the Moscow City Committee of VKP(b) the conclusion was reached that it would be necessary to enlarge and consolidate Moscow construction organizations. The present system of housing construction does not permit full utilization of modern construction techniques. Some construction projects in Moscow use assembly-line methods, but they are still an exception to the rule. In all city rayons, construction work is done by numerous organizations of ministries and departments. This squandering of funds and labor is very harmful.

The present structure of construction organizations should be changed. As a rule, construction and assembly trusts of ministries have several construction and assembly administrations. They, in turn, supervise one or two construction projects, situated at some distance from each other. As a result, a large number of small construction organizations operate in one city rayon, where one or two large trusts could very well handle the work. Each one of these organizations is obliged to set up a temporary administrative system on a small scale. However, to industrialize housing construction one should have not semi-industrial, auxiliary enterprises but large industrial plants producing large-sized, finished construction parts. Such enterprises should be built according to a uniform plan. Each plant should service several construction organizations in Moscow. It would be much more profitable for the state to have one really progressive enterprise than a large number of inefficient ones. At present, unfortunately, the latter are in the majority. The existence of small plants created arbitrarily by each construction organization leads to unnecessary expenditure of state funds.

Due to lack of machinery, the smaller construction organizations cannot fully apply the methods of assembling large structural units. The word "assembly" should not, as a rule, appear in the name of these "construction and assembly" administrations.

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Contracting organizations usually do not meet their quotas and do not complete their work within the prescribed periods. All this results in the squandering of funds and labor forces. During 1949, for example, out of more than 100 contracting organizations 69 had to meet a plan in the amount of one to ten million rubles, and no higher. In Izmaylovo, 80 buildings were constructed by 65 construction organizations of 31 ministries. This could have been handled by one trust with an annual plan of 90 million rubles. Unfortunately, there are still very few of these large organizations, such as the "Stroitel" Trust, "Moszhilstroy" Trust, "Mosuglegrazhdanzhilstroy" Trust, and a few others.

Construction and assembly trusts should be assigned to certain city rayons, regardless of the ministry to which they are subordinated.

LENINGRAD CONSTRUCTION LAGGING -- Leningradskaya Pravda, 19 Sep 50

Not all Leningrad construction organizations are meeting state plans. A serious lag in the work of many trusts makes it very doubtful whether the plan for housing construction in Leningrad will be fulfilled. According to preliminary data, only 28 percent of the year plan for housing construction has been completed in 8 months. The following trusts have been especially unsatisfactory: "Lenkhimpromstroy" (head, Pavlyuchenko), "Lenakademstroy" (head, Ryazanovskiy), Trust No 7 of the Ministry of Heavy Machine Building (head Gorodilin), and "Lenvuzstroy" (head, Lukin). These trusts failed to complete construction of thousands of square meters of housing, which is urgently needed in Leningrad.

CITY CONSTRUCTION IN BASHKIRIA LACKS PLANNING -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 20 Aug 50

New towns of petroleum workers are developing in southwest Bashkiria, including Ishimbay, Oktyabr'skiy, and others. Housing construction has grown rapidly. Sterlitamak, Beloretsk, and other old towns are being reconstructed and expanded. Ufa, the capital of Bashkir ASSR, has been transformed from a small provincial town into an industrial center with asphalt streets, water pipes, sewer system, streetcars, and parks.

However, there are still many shortcomings in the construction of towns and settlements in Bashkiria. City construction lacks uniform planning. Some trusts try to avoid capital construction projects. As a rule, construction of new towns and settlements begins on the outskirts. In Sterlitamak, considerable funds are spent yearly for housing construction, but no reconstruction work is done in the city center.

Large industrial enterprises are obliged to take part in construction of central parts of cities, and to turn over 10 percent of all completed apartment buildings to the city executive committees. Builders have been trying to avoid meeting their obligations and have been able to obtain dispensation through their ministries "by way of exception." Owing to this practice, the central areas of Ishimbay, Oktyabr'skiy, and Chernikovsk are still largely unbuilt.

A serious disadvantage in the reconstruction of these towns is the lack of sewer systems. Despite existing plans and funds for this purpose, the construction of sewer systems is being delayed.

In Ufa, the total volume of construction is not very large as compared with new and rapidly growing cities. Large plants subordinated to the Union, which occupied the best buildings during the war, are unwilling to vacate these buildings and to invest funds in capital construction. For example, the "Bashneft" Association is still occupying the Bashprofsovet

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(Bashkir Council of Trade Unions) and the academic theater. During 15 years of its existence in Ufa, the association has not constructed a single major building but is merely building small houses in the suburbs.

A similar situation exists in enterprises of the Ministries of Communications Equipment Industry and Chemical Industry. Either they do not use the funds assigned to construction, or squander them, and fail to build up the central city areas for which they are responsible.

The Ministry of City Construction has been in existence for a whole year, but it has not had the necessary coordinating effect on subordinate architectural organizations. Until now, the duties and functions of administrations for affairs of architecture have not been determined. The Administration for Affairs of Architecture under the Council of Ministers RSFSR has little control over local architectural activities. Standard requirements in planning and construction have not been coordinated, especially with regard to fire prevention, sanitary engineering, and architectural work.

TOO MANY ORGANIZATIONS HANDLING CONSTRUCTION TIRASPOL' -- Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 15 Sep 50

Industrial and housing construction in Tiraspol' is being handled by four construction organizations: construction and assembly administrations of Konservstroy, Pishchestroy, local industry, and Grazhdanzhilstroy. With the exception of Konservstroy, the remaining construction organizations are in no way equipped to handle the work efficiently. For example, in enterprises of the local industry all construction work is done by manual labor, and even the simplest types of construction machinery are lacking. Pishchestroy also has very inadequate mechanical equipment and most of the work is done by hand. Grazhdanzhilstroy has a woodworking combine which might be able to supply the city of Tiraspol' and adjoining rayons with carpentry products. However, this enterprise is using only 20-25 percent of its productive capacity.

Pishchestroy completed only 70 percent of the 6-month construction plan. The main reason for this was the lack of reinforcement iron, and although a large amount of cement was available it could not be used without the necessary iron. Other construction organizations have the required reinforcement iron but no cement whatsoever, which situation makes it impossible for them to meet their construction plans.

Pishchestroy, which has operated in Tiraspol' for 5 years, is unable to hire more construction workers because of a complete lack of housing facilities. During the past 3 years, no funds have been allotted for housing construction for the needs of the trust's own workers.

It has become absolutely necessary to consolidate all four Tiraspol' construction organizations into one large trust similar to the "Moldstroy" construction organization, which successfully handled industrial and housing construction in Tiraspol' and adjoining areas before the war.

UKRAINIAN TRUSTS STILL INSUFFICIENTLY MECHANIZED -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 9 Sep 50

A great deal of construction is going on in Stalino Oblast. New housing is under construction on an area of 700,000 square meters. During 1950, miners, metallurgical workers, and machine builders have received 211,000 square meters of housing.

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High-speed, assembly-line construction methods are being used more widely. The "Stalinzhilstroy" Trust, headed by Shevgalishin, has considerably speeded up construction of new houses and has reduced construction costs in the last 8 months by almost 500,000 rubles. However, a number of other trusts still operate very inefficiently and slowly, including the "Azovstal'stroy," "Makstroy," and "Yenakiyevtyazhstroy" trusts. Machinery is not being utilized sufficiently. In the "Yenakiyevtyazhstroy" Trust, 60 percent of loading and unloading is done by hand and a large number of hoisting machines and automatic loaders are idle. In the "Makstroy" Trust, only 44 percent of the machinery is used. In the center of Stalino City, the "Yuzhvodstroy" Trust is building a 3-story house, using only outdated construction methods.

MINSK HAS SHORTAGE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, MATERIALS -- Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 9 Sep 50

Two 5-story apartment houses of the Western Railroad Okrug are under construction in Minsk opposite the railroad station. These two buildings, decorated with two high towers, are to serve as a sort of "gateway" to the city. One of these buildings is to have 110 apartments and should be completed in November 1950. However, at the present rate of construction it seems doubtful that the building will be finished on schedule. To finish the exterior of the central part of the building by the prescribed date, 50 plasterers are required, but only 35 are available. The Smolensk construction administration of the Ministry of Transportation USSR has promised to send plasterers from Vitebsk, but so far no help has been received by the construction project. The same situation exists with regard to painters; only seven of these are available instead of the required 20.

The construction projects also lacks metal for staircase railings and balcony grilles and there is a shortage of other materials for the installation of the central heating system and water and sewer pipes. All this prevents the buildings from being finished on-time.

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS NEEDED IN CENTRAL RSFSR -- Yerevan, Kommunist, 3 Oct 50

Engineers and technicians in the following specialties are required for work in MVD construction in the central zone of RSFSR: industrial and civilian construction, operation and repair of automobiles and construction machinery, hydraulic engineers, power engineers, builders of automobile roads, geodesists, as well as planning experts, economists, and accounting clerks. Apply to Personnel Department of MVD, Armenian SSR.

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