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PRODUCTION OF NEW USSR TRACTOR MONTHS BEHIND SCHEDULE

MINSK PLANT TO PRODUCE BELARUS' TRACTOR -- Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 27 Jul 53

The Minsk Tractor Plant has completed preparations for the production of the Belarus' tractor and will turn out the first of the new machines at the beginning of August.

More than 20 enterprises of the Belorussian SSR produce spare parts for motor vehicles and tractors.

PLANT, MINISTRY BERATED FOR FAILURE TO TURN OUT TRACTORS -- Moscow, Pravda, 26 Sep 53

The Minsk Tractor Plant was supposed to have begun production of the Belarus' tractor in July 1953, and should have turned out 700 tractors by now. However, not a single tractor has come off the assembly line, and if decisive measures are not taken at once, production of the Belarus' will be delayed further.

The plant has not yet organized the production of 200 type designations of important parts. Hundreds of other type designations of parts have been produced in negligible quantities, far insufficient for constant flow production. For example, only two of the 700 rear axle hubs planned for this period have been produced.

Most of the shops at the plant are taking part in the production of the Belarus', but tractor shop No 2 must supply the basic parts for assembly. However, many sections of this shop have not produced even one half of the tractor parts called for by the plan. In August, the plan in tractor shop No 2 was fulfilled, only 30.9 percent and in the first 20 days of September, the plan was fulfilled only 6.8 percent.

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The diesel shop is lagging in the output of engines. The pressing shop has not organized the output of many important parts. The tool division of the plant in particular is holding up production. Demidenko, chief of the tool division, is not supplying the basic shops with tools and accessories and is thus holding up the production of parts. Some production sections, lacking tools and dies, resort to roundabout methods, which in some cases means making parts by hand.

The reject rate is high. A group of milling attachments were ruined and had to be sent back to be remade because of a mistake by the Division of the Chief Technologist. There is no real creative teamwork by designers, technologists, and production workers.

These major shortcomings are attributable to the plant management's poor leadership in organizing production. Starting only after a long delay, the management did not succeed in coordinating and guiding the work of all production sections and services. The plant directorate and the party committee are unperturbed by failures of shops to fulfill their assignments, are not sufficiently demanding with respect to plant workers, and do not punish the people responsible for failures. Tarasov, director of the plant, and Nikanorov, secretary of the party committee, have repeatedly promised to remedy the situation and have named several deadlines for production of the Belarus'. Remedial measures have been outlined by the party committee, but as yet no effective action has been taken.

The Ministry of Machine Building USSR is largely responsible for the failure to produce the new wheel tractor because it did not supply the necessary equipment and materials in time, and did not organize effective cooperation among its enterprises. A number of plants of the ministry have failed to supply the Minsk Tractor Plant with important parts and materials. The Gor'kiy Motor Vehicle Plant imeni Molotov has yet to prepare six dies for stamping radiator and engine guards. The Khar'kov and Lipetsk tractor plants are behind schedule in delivering parts. Because of mistakes made by ministry workers in distributing orders, the Minsk Tractor Plant has been unable to obtain many types of parts for the past 7 months.

A group of Leningrad enterprises of the Ministry of Chemical Industry USSR have not fulfilled their contractual obligations to the Minsk plant. The Leningrad Tire Plant was supposed to have shipped 2,300 tires to the Minsk plant in the second and third quarters of 1953, but it has yet to ship a single set of tires.

A month ago, Akopov, Minister of Machine Building USSR, issued an order outlining measures to remedy the delays at the Minsk Tractor Plant, but there has been virtually no change since the order was issued.

The September Plenum of the Central Committee, CPSU, called for the production of no less than 250,000 plowing tractors in the next few years. The Ministry of Machine Building USSR and party organizations of the Belorussian SSR should give concrete assistance to the Minsk Tractor Plant so that it can contribute its share to the above-mentioned goal, and start shipping Belarus' tractors to kolkhozes as soon as possible.

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