

FOR THE GOOD OF MAN

N.S. Khrushchov's Report

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ON MEASURES
FOR FULFILLING
THE CPSU PROGRAMME
FOR RAISING
THE LIVING STANDARDS
OF THE PEOPLE

*N. S. Khrushchov's Report
at the USSR Supreme Soviet Session
on July 13, 1964*

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MOSCOW, USSR

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**ON MEASURES FOR FULFILLING THE CPSU
PROGRAMME FOR RAISING THE LIVING
STANDARDS OF THE PEOPLE**

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Supreme Soviet Session on July 13, 1964*

Comrade Deputies,

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR have assigned me to deliver to the Supreme Soviet session a report "On Measures for Fulfilling the CPSU Programme for Raising the Living Standards of the People".

The following proposals are submitted for your consideration:

On pensions and allowances to collective farmers,

On raising the wages of persons engaged in education, public health, housing communal economy, trade, public catering and other branches of national economy, directly servicing the public.

The very fact that these vitally important questions have been raised in the supreme organ of state power shows that the Party is consistently and persistently carrying into practice the CPSU Programme for strengthening the economic might of our socialist country, increasing its national wealth and raising the living standards of the people.

In the era of establishment and assertion of the new, communist formation economic affairs are brought to the fore by the very logic of historical development. Without

this the people who made the revolution under the guidance of the Party will be unable to see all its real gains. It is only by developing industry and agriculture on the basis of the achievements of modern science and engineering that one can ensure a steady improvement of the people's standards of living. "Socialism alone," Lenin said, "will make it possible to spread extensively and really subordinate social production and distribution of products according to scientifically grounded considerations on how to make the life of all the working people as easy as possible so that it would provide them with opportunities for well-being." (*Complete Works*, Vol. 36, p. 381, 5th Russ. Ed.)

Our Party and government consider it their sacred duty to carry out Lenin's great behest: develop in every way socialist economy, and on its basis raise the living standards and the cultural level of the working people.

In the entire system of socio-economic, political and cultural transformations, necessary for the transition to communism, the CPSU Programme brings to the fore the task of setting up the material and technical base of communism, capable of ensuring the highest productivity of social labour and an abundance of material and spiritual boons for all the working people.

Almost 3 years have passed since the adoption of the new Party Programme by the 22nd CPSU Congress. This certainly is not a very long period of time. Besides, it was not always that favourable factors and fair winds accompanied us those years. There were also certain difficulties of an internal and external nature. In spite of this, things are going well with us. It is with a feeling of great satisfaction that I can report to the Supreme Soviet and all the Soviet people that the Programme of the Communist Party has a good start towards fulfilment.

SOME RESULTS OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY

Comrade Deputies,

Allow me to give here a brief description of the progress in the fulfilment of the major tasks mapped out by our Party Programme in the field of economic development and improvement of the living standards of the people.

It is common knowledge that for the 20-year period (1961—1980) the CPSU Programme provides for no less than a sixfold increase in industrial output. This means that industry will have to grow by an average of 9—10 per cent annually. Let us take a look into how the plan is being carried out in reality. In 1961, industrial output in the country increased by 9.1 per cent, and in 1962 by 9.7 per cent. Last year's crop failure has had an unfavourable effect on the development of food production and a number of branches of light industry. In spite of this, the gross industrial output in 1963 increased by 8.5 per cent.

If we take such a key branch of industry as engineering and metal processing, it has grown by an average of more than 14 per cent annually, as against 12—13 per cent contemplated for the 20-year period. The chemical industry, as envisaged by the CPSU Programme, showed an average annual increase of 15 per cent. The output of steel, oil and gas is also growing at a faster rate than that set by the Programme. Electric power production is developing at the level determined by the Party Programme. The technical level of industry has increased and its structure has improved.

All this gives us every reason to say that the Party and the people are successfully solving the main economic problem and are steadily and boldly marching ahead along Lenin's path.

A major step in creating the material and technical base of communism will be made as a result of the fulfilment of the 7-Year Plan. It should be recalled that in compiling this plan a large growth of industrial output was contemplated. It seemed unrealistic to many foreign economists. There were all kinds of forecasts and inventions in the bourgeois press.

And what did life show? Not so long ago the results of the fulfilment of the 7-Year Plan for 5 years were summed up. You apparently remember that in 5 years it was planned to increase industrial output by 51 per cent, and in reality it increased by 58 per cent. The plan for the first six months of this year has been fulfilled by 103 per cent.

In five and a half years some 40,000 million roubles' worth of produce has been put out over and above the plan. There is every reason to suppose that instead of the 80 per cent provided by the plan, industrial output will increase probably by not less than 86 per cent in 7 years.

Bourgeois economists and politicians regarded our 7-year plan as a new economic challenge to the capitalist world. We are not going to argue about this: if they take it as a challenge, let it be so. The Soviet Union is indeed engaged in a peaceful economic competition with the capitalist countries, and especially with the United States of America. We have no doubts about the outcome of this competition. We are bound to win it.

Let us take the past 6 years (1958—1963). In that period the average annual rate of industrial growth in the Soviet Union amounted to 9.7 per cent, and in the United States it was 3.6 per cent. If you compare the per capita industrial output, the figures for the USSR will be 7.9 per cent, and for the United States 1.8 per cent. Ten years ago the volume of our industrial output amounted to only 33 per cent of America's volume, in 1957 it was 47 per cent, and in 1963 it was already some 65 per cent.

Our industry is developing more quickly than that of the United States. That is why we have always said confidently: the Soviet Union will overtake and surpass the United States of America.

In recent years much has been done in our country for the development of agriculture and for increasing the output of agricultural produce. This has given us positive results.

True, last year, which was exceptionally unfavourable for us as to weather conditions, was a source of much concern and disappointment to us. Some people abroad gloated in this connection and spoke of a "crisis" and "failure" of Soviet agriculture. Such oracles have often landed in a mess with their forecasts. The same will happen to them now.

It should be clear to anyone who understands at least something in agriculture that it is impossible to judge its development by the results of a single year. There is a saying that not all years are alike. To have a proper picture it is necessary to take corresponding data for several years. It is only with such an approach that one will be able to see the actual state of affairs and the tendencies in the development of agriculture.

Let us take, for instance, the data for three five-year periods which preceded the year of 1963 with its crop failure.

In the past two five-year periods the output of grain in our country increased by 77 per cent, meat more than two-

Average Annual Production

	Grain in thousand millions of pounds	in millions of tons	Meat in slaughter weight in millions of tons	Milk in millions of tons	Butter in thousands of tons	Sugar (from local raw materials) in millions of tons
1948—1952	4.8	77.9	4.3	35.1	473	2.5
1953—1957	6.2	101.5	6.5	44.3	600	3.5
1958—1962	8.4	137.5	8.7	61.7	861	5.7
in 1958—1962 in percentages of 1948—1952		177	202	176	182	228

fold, milk by 76 per cent, butter 82 per cent and sugar 2.3 times.

Judge for yourself whether one can speak of a "crisis" of agriculture with such a rate of development! The talks about a "crisis" are swindling tricks of bourgeois critics who portray our failures for this or that year as Soviet economic fiasco. We are very familiar with this song and know quite well who sings it.

Last year because of a crop failure we had to purchase abroad 12 million tons of grain. Could we get along without these purchases? Yes, we could. But then we would have to economize grain more rigorously, restrict the norms of consumption, reduce the output of some of the foodstuffs and have smaller quantities of concentrated fodder for livestock. The Soviet Government did not agree to such measures and decided to purchase grain and allocate for this the necessary means from our reserves, so as to reduce the difficulties caused by the crop failure.

The fact that the Soviet state coped with the problems, which arose as a result of last year's crop failure, is just another indication of the strength of the socialist system, of the might of its economy, of the advantages of large-scale socialist agriculture.

Life is a good teacher. Last year's crop failure reminded us of the need for adopting such measures that would reduce to the minimum the influence of the whims of nature on the results of agricultural production.

As you know, a system of measures has been evolved for the intensification of agriculture, for ensuring stable

crops and high productivity in livestock breeding. What are these measures? I shall name the most important of these.

First, there will be a sharp increase in the output of mineral fertilizers, of chemical means for the protection of plants and of other chemical products for plant growing and livestock breeding.

Second, the mechanization of agricultural production will be intensified.

Third, it is planned to carry out on a grand scale the irrigation and land reclamation work.

In recent past we did not have the opportunities that we now have to do this. Now, with the growth of socialist economy and development of science, we have more prerequisites for obtaining high crops regardless of the whims of weather. A special place in the development of agricultural production belongs to a better utilization of the achievements of science and advanced know-how.

The high and stable crops that we shall grow will help to stock up the necessary reserves of grain. The state should have in stock not less than a half, and even in full, the country's annual consumption norm of grain, so as to be secure in all kinds of emergencies. And we shall certainly have such reserves.

The realization of the measures outlined will call for vast capital investments. In the current year alone 5,400 million roubles have been allocated for the purposes of agricultural production, or six times as much as in 1953. The means which are invested in agriculture help build a firm foundation for systematically improving agricultural production, if they are, of course, used rationally and thriftily in every specific case.

As to this year's harvest, I shall dwell on the subject somewhat later.

In a socialist society, the development of industry, agriculture, the scientific and technological progress, the construction of dwellings and public service establishments, and cultural development—all these are aimed at making the life of man more secure, at bringing about the conditions for the fullest possible display of his creative powers and abilities.

True, there are people, who call themselves Marxists, and regard the improvement of the living standards of the people in a socialist society as "turning bourgeois". It is

simply amazing how an idea to make such statements can enter one's head. Such "wisdom" is incomprehensible to a genuine Marxist.

In a bourgeois society, production is organized for the purpose of deriving profits and enriching a small group of exploiters. The case is entirely different under socialism. Socialist production has as its aim the improvement in the well-being of the entire people.

The working people want to secure real freedom and social equality, to make their life materially secure and spiritually rich. The description of communism as a society in which concern for the living standards of the people recedes into the background can only scare and push them away from communism, can only play into the hands of bourgeois propaganda which is trying to discredit socialism and praises to the skies the capitalist way of life and its "benefits".

For what purpose did our people make sacrifices in the Great October Revolution, in the years of the Civil War, during the period of the early five-year plans and in the Patriotic War? They did so for the sake of winning freedom, for the sake of a better life. Our people devoted themselves to struggle, denying themselves not infrequently the prime necessities of life for the sake of the bright future, for the victory of socialism. The efforts of the Soviet people have been crowned with success. Their work has brought about the conditions for filling the cup of abundance by steadily developing the productive forces and securing such a level of social production at which, putting it in Marx's words, all the springs of public wealth will flow in an abundant stream.

To rebuke us for our alleged revision of Marxism, for giving priority to the development of the economy, to the material well-being of the people, as compared to politics and ideology, means not to know, not to understand the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism. Our critics should have known one of the major theses of Marxism to the effect that people, before they could engage in ideology and politics, must have the wherewithal to eat, to drink, to dress and a house to live in. And how can one have these benefits unless they are produced in the process of work? Therefore, what is needed is a well developed economy.

The growth of the material well-being of the people,

concern for the improvement of the people's health, raising the level of their education and culture, and better public services for the working people create the conditions for increasing the productivity of labour, the accelerated development of the productive forces of the country and the building up of the material and technical basis of communism. And the more energetically we tackle all these problems, the more successfully we solve them, the sooner socialism will win in the economic competition with capitalism. The development of the economy, the improvement of the people's welfare is for us the most important, the most interesting politics and ideology.

Everyone knows how many things have been accomplished in the country, especially during recent years, in the field of improving the life of the people. People have begun to live much better than they did before. Let me recall a few figures. During the past 10 years the national income in the Soviet Union has increased 2.3 times, or 93 per cent per capita. And it is common knowledge that the national income is the source of not only expanding production, but also of improving the material well-being of the people. The real incomes of the working people—workers, collective farmers and office employees—have increased 61 per cent (per worker) during the past decade on the basis of the growth of the national income.

The growth of public consumption funds is a substantial index of the improvement of the people's well-being. The founders of scientific communism called them the funds of "joint satisfaction of requirements", "sprouts of communism", and attached great importance to them. Public consumption funds are a new phenomenon engendered by the socialist system, by socialist production relations. Great is their role in preparing the conditions for implementing the principles of communist distribution of the future.

It is gratifying to note the growth of public consumption funds during the past decade. In 1953 they amounted to 14,800 million roubles, whereas in 1963 they increased to 34,500 million roubles. Last year 357 roubles were spent on the average in the form of various payments and benefits on every person engaged in the national economy out of the public consumption funds in excess of the wages and incomes from the collective farms.

The public consumption funds are used to finance free education and public health services, to pay pensions to more than 26 million persons and to pay for the leaves and temporary disablement benefits of all factory and office workers. The same funds account for about 5,500,000 students receiving scholarships or using hostels free of charge. More than 12 million persons rest or take treatment in sanatoria, holiday homes or Young Pioneer camps every year; more than 10 million children are accommodated at nurseries or kindergartens; about 6 million mothers of large families or single mothers receive state benefits. That is the vast place held by the public consumption funds in satisfying the people's requirements.

The growth in the consumption of manufactured goods serves as an important index of the continued improvement in the people's well-being. Let me cite some figures on the sale of major manufactures:

Description	Unit of measurement	1953	1963	Sold in 1963 in % to 1953
Clothing and underwear	Millions of roubles in commensurate prices	3,030	8,299	274
Knitted goods	»	711	2,329	327
Leather footwear	»	1,566	3,672	234
Clocks and watches	Thousands	13,184	19,687	149
Sewing machines	»	1,061	2,385	225
Radio sets	»	1,607	4,249	264
TV sets	»	122	2,253	18.5 times
Refrigerators	»	50	861	17 times
Washing machines	»	3.6	2,180	605 times
Vacuum cleaners	»	43	623	14.5 times
Bicycles	»	1,916	3,044	159
Motor cycles and scooters	»	134	632	472

The growth of commodity sales is an index of development of our industry, the steady rise of the purchasing capacity of the population, and increase of its income.

The Soviet people, having greater sums at their disposal than before, want diverse, high-quality and attractive goods. Our task is to meet in full the needs of the population. At the same time, industrial enterprises often turn out goods

of inferior quality, and trading organizations accept such output. Sufficient efforts are not being made to expand and improve the variety of consumer goods. All this evokes just complaints from the working people. Improving the quality of output is one of the main tasks today, and it should be solved at all cost.

Let us further examine an index of enhanced well-being of the working people, the sales of foodstuffs. Sales of food to the population keep increasing from year to year, as testified by the following statistics:

Commodity	1953	1962	1963	Sold in 1963 (in % to 1953)
Grain products (in terms of flour, thousand tons)	18,939	28,449	28,996	153
Meat and meat products (thousand tons)	1,757	4,492	5,032	286
Butter (thousand tons)	330	614	622	188
Vegetable oil (thousand tons)	298	474	489	164
Eggs (millions)	2,045	7,237	7,301	357
Milk and milk products (in terms of milk, thousand tons)	2,423	11,093	11,452	473
Sugar (thousand tons)	2,410	4,802	5,250	218

It should be pointed out that even last year, despite a crop failure, the sales of basic agricultural products rose. Of course, the sales of foodstuffs increased in less quantities than those called for to meet the requirements of the population. We know that in some cities and areas, supplies of certain items of foodstuffs have been, and continue at times to be, irregular. The Party and the government are taking the necessary steps to do away with these irregularities, and to ensure that the nation's agricultural production advances in conformity with the growing needs of society.

Housing construction has assumed a tremendous scale in the Soviet Union. This scale amazes everyone who comes to our country. One hundred and eight million people, or nearly half of the population, have moved into new homes or have improved their housing conditions in the past ten years. Some 65,000 million roubles have been invested in housing construction during this period.

Construction of houses has never before been conducted on such a scale in our country.

The standards of culture and education of the Soviet people are rising together with the rapid growth of their material security. Today half of the 107 million working people have a higher or secondary education. Last year alone our country spent 23,000 million roubles, or more than 13 per cent of the national income, on education, health, culture and science.

Such, in brief, are the results of the fulfilment of the plans for economic development, cultural construction, and growth of the well-being of the working people in the last few years.

Comrade Deputies, the Soviet Government now intends to effect a series of additional measures for the further rise of the material well-being of the people. Draft laws on pensions and benefits for collective farmers and on higher pay for workers in education, health, housing and communal services, trade and public catering, and in other fields whose personnel directly serves the population, have been submitted for consideration to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

In conditions of socialism the labour of every person should be socially useful. Each kind of this work is honourable and noble. Those who are engaged in public education, public health and public service create better conditions for those occupied in the production field, help to raise their productivity.

Permit me to pass over to the question of pensions and benefits for collective farmers.

ON PENSIONS AND BENEFITS FOR COLLECTIVE FARMERS

Comrade Deputies,

As I have already mentioned, our Party has, in the interests of the people, effected big social transformations in recent years. And now one more measure of tremendous historic importance is being added to them: the task of setting up a single pensions system for collective farmers on a countrywide scale is being solved.

To gain a deeper understanding of the importance of this problem, it is necessary at least briefly to recall the

past life of our peasants and look at the present situation of the peasants in the capitalist countries where the problem of social security for millions of agricultural toilers has not found and cannot find its just solution in the conditions of an exploiting system.

The people of the older generation involuntarily recall the hard lot of the peasant in old, pre-revolutionary Russia, who was ever crushed by want, who was illiterate and deprived of all rights, who lived and died in abject poverty. Nobody cared about his bitter fate, his hopes and sufferings. Literature gives a shocking picture of the ordeal of peasant life. Remember the lines in "Came to Ruin", a poem by Ivan Savvich Nikitin, who sang of Russian sorrow:

His bast shoes so worn, his shirt torn and stooping
He sat with his curly head hopelessly drooping
His cares and his thoughts gnawed away at his heart
And the sun scorched his uncovered head e'er so hard.

For many a year he'd been losing his main
Which went into ploughland as if in a drain
He lost it all trying to keep his farm
And working in places so distant and far.

He did not ask heavens for anything great
He merely wanted his brown daily bread
But grief came along and razed to the ground
The farm and the barn to which his heart was bound.

The bourgeois landlord system squeezed, crushed and strangled the common working man, and in his old age, cast him out. The landlords and tsarist officials did not think of pensions and benefits for the peasant, but of how to squeeze the tax press tighter, or, to use the words of the writer, Gleb Uspensky, to carry out a "nationwide swindle", to strip the moujik clean. Of course, nobody ever awarded him, never paid him honours, did nothing to provide for him in old age.

We recall this now as something of the very distant past which has been done away with in our country long ago and for ever.

And now look at the fate of the toiling peasant in conditions of capitalism. He is needed as long as he works and creates material values, but when a man turns old and cannot work, his lot is a life of poverty and death from hunger. Never before have exploitation, the ruining and robbing of

petty peasants and farmer households assumed such an enormous scale as at present.

In conditions of fierce rivalry, vast numbers of farmers in the United States are going bankrupt. Some 150,000 farms founder every year, while their owners join the army of hired farmhands and unemployed. American history has never before seen farmers driven off the land at such a monstrous pace. In his recent Message to the United States Congress on agricultural affairs, President Johnson was forced to admit that the agricultural regions account for nearly half of the poor in the nation.

Johnson further admits that 55 million Americans live in rural areas. Very many of them have no chance of receiving an education or learning a trade...

The newspaper *Wall Street Journal*, an organ of the US financial clique, printed a series of articles at the beginning of 1964 depicting the poverty of ordinary Americans. According to the authors, as distinct from a rich America, there is another America of 20—40 million people living in poverty. Especially characteristic in this respect is the status of the population of the farming areas of the United States, and, first of all, the army of hired farmhands and season workers migrating around the country in quest of money and food.

The ruining and impoverishment of the peasantry in the West European countries has assumed a mass-scale nature. Thus, in the period 1954-1962, as many as 242,000 peasant households "vanished" in France. The same happened in West Germany, Italy and several other countries. The situation is still worse for the peasants in the Latin American countries, and in most of the Afro-Asian countries. Such is the reality of the capitalist world.

As distinct from the capitalist countries, where the social rights of the working people are restricted and infringed upon in every possible way, the policy of social security in our country is imbued with constant concern for the working man, with a spirit of justice and humaneness. The Soviet people know that their material security is ensured by the whole might of the socialist state, by the steady growth of its economy, and the selfless effort of the entire people for their society, for the good of the motherland.

Under the Soviet system, the interests of each member of the collective and the interests of the collective as a whole, the interests of each person and the interests of the entire society are blended together. The effort to promote social

production is a matter of honour and glory to our workers, peasants and intelligentsia.

The working man in our country is surrounded with the care and attention of the Party, the government, and of the entire people. History knows of no other example where such great honours and glory are bestowed on the common working man as in the socialist society. In our country hundreds of thousands of industrial workers and collective farmers have merited government awards, the high title of Hero of Socialist Labour. They are the cream of our socialist society, its pride, its labour guard, inspiring millions of people by their example to valorous effort for the sake of communism.

The glorious workers of agriculture are marching side by side with the heroic working class in the building of communism in our country. Our Party has every right to be proud of having moulded the new peasant, accustomed him to collective creative effort, provided him with machinery and knowledge, and inoculated him with a deep sense of social duty. And this new peasant now rises before the world as an inspired transformer, a champion of Lenin's great cause.

We can name thousands upon thousands of splendid field and animal husbandry workers, and innovators in collective-farm and state-farm production.

You are all well familiar with Nadezhda Grigoryevna Zaglada, a team-leader of the First of May Collective Farm in Zhitomir Region, a Hero of Socialist Labour, noted for her skill in raising maize, flax and other crops. Her whole life has been devoted to work on the land. She experienced all the hardships which befell the peasant woman in the pre-revolutionary countryside. She has now come to know the joy and happiness of collective-farm life. Nadezhda Grigoryevna is already 70 years old, but look how much energy and labour enthusiasm she still has. Listen to the inspiring way she talks about the honour of the crop-grower, and how communism will not come by itself, but that it is necessary, instead, to roll up one's sleeves and work conscientiously, and to bring nearer our bright tomorrow by intensive labour. Zaglada's team is profitably reaping 60—70 centners of maize per hectare for grain. Her example is instructive, stirs the heart, and spurs the younger generation on to exploits.

There were many kind words addressed by the collective farmers to Praskovya Nikolayevna Kovrova, a Ryazan

milkmaid, when she recently retired on pension. During the whole period of her work on the collective farm she obtained 1,200,000 litres of milk. Her outstanding successes in work have been crowned by two Gold Stars of the Hero of Socialist Labour.

Another widely known name in our country is that of a splendid Kazakh rice-grower, a team-leader of the Kzyl-Tu Collective Farm, Hero of Socialist Labour Ibrai Zhakhayev. Year after year his team reaps big harvests. Last year the average rice crop equalled 78 centners per hectare. Ibrai Zhakhayev is 73 years old, but he continues to stay on the job he loves and with his labour makes a worthy contribution to the construction of communism.

And everybody in our country is familiar with Mark Andronovich Braga, Twice Hero of the Socialist Labour, a combine-harvester operator of the Rossia Collective Farm in Kherson Region. He has been on the deck of his harvester for nearly 30 years and has threshed about 2 million poods of grain. This veteran collective-farm machine operator is passing his wealthy experience and knowledge on to the youth and has taught dozens of young men and women how to run combine-harvesters.

These people, comrades, are representatives of the older generation of working people of our collective-farm countryside. I haven't the possibility of naming hundreds of other heroes who have manifested and continue to manifest great strength, courage and perseverance in labour for the sake of the triumph of communism. Honour and glory to all of them, to all of them the heartfelt gratitude of the Party, government, and our entire people!

Speaking of the older generation, we must recall the veterans of collective-farm development in our country, renowned organizers and leaders of the collective farms, such as Ivan Andreyevich Buyanov, Makar Anisimovich Posmitny, Kiril Prokofyevich Orlovsky, Fyodor Mitrofanovich Grinko, Khamrakul Tursunkulov, Pyotr Alekseyevich Prozorov, Proskovya Andreyevna Malinina, Vasili Vasilyevich Grachev, Tikhon Sergeevich Pryakhin, Akim Vasilyevich Gorshkov, Shamama Gasanova, Pavel Mikhailovich Demin, and many others. They showed in action how to operate the collective farms, how to raise crop yields and livestock productivity and to obtain more produce from each hectare of land. Their names merit general respect.

It is pleasant to realize that the cause to which the older generation of the collective-farm countryside dedicated its life, is worthily continued by its successors, the innovators in agriculture who have grown up in recent years. Drawing on modern science and technology these people are paving the way to the summits of communist labour productivity. Everyone knows of Vladimir Svetlichny, Aleksandr Gitalov, Vladimir Pervitsky, Grigory Plotnikov, Nikolai Manukovsky, Pyotr Zhuravsky, Ilya Polishko, Viktor Kuznetsov, Anna Karputseva, Javat Kuchiev and other farm machine operators who have mastered to perfection advanced methods of agriculture.

Our entire country is proud of such people, glorifies their labour and skill, their boundless devotion to country, to the great cause of Lenin, to the cause of communism.

But appreciation of the labour of the worker, collective farmer and intellectual in our country is expressed not only in honours and decorations. The socialist principle of the distribution of society's wealth—from each according to his ability, to each according to his work is a powerful stimulus to the production of this wealth. The material interest of people in the results of their labour is a primary factor in building communism. The Soviet citizen knows that the more productive his labour, and the more he gives to society, the richer will be the country and the higher his own living standards. The continuous development of the Soviet economy is creating ever new possibilities for the raise in the living standards of the working people. Constant concern for steadily improving the life of the working man, for satisfying ever more fully his material and spiritual requirements is the law of our Party, the law of life of Soviet society. Herein lies the source of the greatest magnetic force of socialism.

Just solution of social problems, including pensions for the working people, is a major achievement of socialism. In the Soviet state the working people receive old-age and disability pensions and various benefits. The social maintenance system in our country has taken shape in conformity with the development of society and its economy.

Workers and other employees of state industrial enterprises, construction sites, state farms and offices are given pensions and benefits out of the allocations made by enterprises from their incomes. As for the collective farmers, they as members of a cooperative, receive pensions and allowances

from pension funds set up by the collective farms out of their incomes. Such a system reflects the features of the economic development of our country which has two forms of social property—state, and cooperative-collective-farm property.

How is the provision of pensions to collective farmers organized now? Advanced collective farms which are successfully expanding production and steadily obtaining bigger incomes are setting up pension funds to which considerable resources are allotted. Here are some examples.

The Kommunistichesky Mayak Collective Farm of the Georgievsk Production Management Board, Stavropol Territory, contributed to the pension fund from 3 to 5 per cent of its cash income. Here the amount of the pension is fixed depending on the labour record of the collective farmer: old-age pension, from 30 roubles a month upward; disability pension, from 13 roubles upward; pension to dependents who lost their breadwinner, also from 13 roubles upward.

The Ukraina Collective Farm of the Luben Production Management Board, Poltava Region, issues old-age and disability pensions and also pays temporary disability benefits. The size of the old-age pension depends on the labour record and participation in production and ranges from 18 to 40 roubles a month. The maximum is received by aged members who worked in the collective farm not less than 20 years and who in the last three years have had not less than 280 work-day units to their credit annually.

In the Pobeda Collective Farm, Chimkent Region, Kazakhstan, the amount of the old-age pension is set only according to the labour record. Forty roubles are given to those who have a record of over 25 years; in the case of a shorter labour record, 13 roubles. Temporary disability benefits amount to 50 per cent of the average monthly earnings. Women receive paid maternity leave.

Detailed pension regulations have been drawn up in the Leninsky Luch Collective Farm, Zvenigorod Production Management Board, Moscow Region. They provide for the payment of pensions to aged and disabled collective farmers, according to their work in the collective farm, from 10 to 30 roubles. The labour record for men is 25 years and for women 20 years. The calculation of the pension is made on the basis of the average monthly earnings in the collective farm in the last three years.

These examples and also a study of the way pensions are provided to collective farmers in the various republics show

that the collective farms, deciding the question of material maintenance of those who are no longer able to work, approach differently the problem of fixing the allocation to the pension fund, the size of pensions and also the principle of appointing them. In some collective farms the pensions are bigger, in others they are smaller. There are a number of farms where pensions do not exceed 10 roubles, and there are also some farms, which, owing to their economic weakness, have so far been unable to make allotments to a pension fund and practically have no resources for the payment of pensions to their members.

There is great diversity in setting the pension age, labour record and degree of participation in the work of the collective farm, for granting pensions and fixing their amount. There are, for example, collective farms where pensions are fixed only according to age and the labour record, while in other farms the member's attitude to work and the contribution he made to the common cause are also taken into account.

The time has come for placing the entire matter of pensions for collective farmers on a more solid basis, for creating conditions in which each honest rural worker could regularly receive a pension in his old age. Moreover, the amount of a pension, of which I will speak later on, should be connected with the level of the economic development of the collective farms and the results of the work of the people retiring on pension.

Some comrades ask, was it not possible before to settle problem of pensions for collective farmers on the same basis as is proposed now. It is not difficult to answer this question, if we recall the state in which our collective farms were ten years ago, prior to the Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the CPSU in September, 1953.

In that period agricultural production was at an extremely low level. Many collective farms were not even able to cover their production outlays with the money received from the sale of their produce.

It goes without saying that such collective farms did not have necessary accumulations to develop their economy. Nor did they have money for remunerating the labour of their members. Could the collective farms in these conditions make the necessary contributions to pension funds and cope with the task of providing social maintenance to the people working in agriculture?

The draft law on pensions and benefits submitted to the present session envisages a radical improvement of social maintenance for collective farmers. It is a matter of a lawful right of the collective farmer to an old-age and disability pension, to a pension in case of the loss of a breadwinner and also to various other benefits.

The draft law provides for setting up an All-Union Fund of Social Maintenance for collective farmers to be formed by contributions of the collective farms and by annual appropriations under the state budget.

According to the figures of the Central Statistical Board, some 6.5 million collective farmers will have the right to a pension. The expenditure for the payment of pensions and allowances, according to the preliminary estimates, is about 1,300—1,400 million roubles annually. To cover this expenditure farms will annually contribute 3 or 4 per cent of their income which in 1965 will amount to about 800 million roubles.

We have to decide from what part of the incomes will the collective farms have to make contributions to the pension fund. There are different opinions on this score. Some comrades think that the contributions should be made from the cash income. Others do not agree with this view, and think that a definite percentage of the value of gross output, or gross income should be allotted to the pension fund.

Supporters of the second proposal are putting forward, in my opinion, quite convincing arguments. They hold that if contributions to the pension fund are to be made only from the cash income, this might impel some dishonest people artificially to reduce the money income. There might be people who will reason approximately as follows: if we distribute more products in kind to the collective farmers, there will be less of a money income and less will have to be contributed to the pension fund. What will this result in? The share of the output going for the market will be reduced, while the distribution of products among the collective farmers will increase. A cut in the cash incomes will lead to a decrease in the pension fund for collective farmers.

Perhaps the present session should elect a special commission to study these questions, draw up proposals and submit them to the Council of Ministers which should be instructed to take a final decision.

Pensions and benefits for collective farmers are to be introduced as of January 1, 1965. To set up the necessary

reserves it is suggested that in 1964 the collective farms allot from their incomes 2 per cent, which will amount approximately to 350 million roubles. A considerable part of the money for the payment of pensions and benefits to collective farmers will be allotted from the state budget. It is stipulated in the draft law that the payment of pensions and allowances is to be made without any deductions whatsoever from the incomes of the collective farmers.

In future, collective farms will possibly have to contribute to the social maintenance fund not 3 or 4 per cent but somewhat less. The development of agriculture on an intensive basis will make it possible to increase labour productivity and to expand agricultural production in our country. As a result, incomes of the collective farms will rise and total allotments to the pension fund will increase. The pension fund will thus grow even if the percentage of contributions is somewhat reduced.

We should tie up the system of pensions for collective farmers with the degree of the economic development of the collective farms, the level of their output, the labour contribution of the members to the development and strengthening of the farm and also the contribution of the collective farm to the All-Union Pension Fund.

Judging from letters received by Party and government bodies different opinions exist on this question. Some comrades, and they are in the majority, think that the higher the labour productivity of the collective farmers, the more produce a collective farm obtains and sells to the state per hectare of ploughland, the higher its income and the level of contributions to the pension fund, the higher the pensions received by the collective farmers must be.

Other comrades are of the opinion that the pension must be the same in size for all collective farmers. It should not be linked with the results of the economic development of one or another collective farm, with the level of labour productivity and the output.

This is a fundamental question and a clear-cut answer must be given to it. It seems to me that the comrades who propose that pensions for collective farmers should be linked with the results of their work and the development of the economy of the collective farms, are right.

Our Party, rallying the people to carry out economic development plans, attaches great importance to the Leninist

principle of the material incentive. We must always remember Lenin's directive that the socialist economy should be built not directly on enthusiasm, but with help of enthusiasm born of the great revolution, on personal interest, on personal incentive and cost accounting.

The Leninist principle of the material incentive formed the basis for elaborating the socialist system of payment for work. We have acted, and are acting, on the principle that for better work there must also be higher pay. The Soviet people rightly call levelling the enemy of our economy during the period of transition from socialism to communism because wherever the levelling approach in payment for work prevails, stagnation in economy is inevitable. And, conversely, encouragement of better results achieved in production always leads to a growth in labour productivity, accumulation of society's wealth and a rise in living standards of the people.

But if in the system of labour remuneration we are guided by the principle of providing bigger material incentives to increasing output, we must not ignore this principle in the policy of pensions for collective farmers. To allow levelling in this matter would mean gravely to offend those who selflessly work, who thanks to their high sense of social duty, diligence and ability are making a big contribution to our common cause.

We must tell all collective farmers outright and frankly that the pension policy of the Soviet state will be aimed at encouraging in old age those who worked better. Let everyone know that if he works well today, he will be better provided for his old age. Such an approach to the matter will correspond to the interests of the collective farmers, to the interests of all Soviet society.

It is a fact that alongside advanced collective farms we have not a few backward farms with a low production level. There are even collective farms which in effect live at the expense of the state: today they ask for bank credits and tomorrow they petition for writing off the indebtedness on credits. Why should members of such a collective farm be placed in an equal position as regards pensions with members of advanced collective farms?

It may be said that the economic condition of one or another collective farm largely depends on its managers, on the chairman of the collective farm, on its board and the agricultural specialists. This, of course, is true. In our days

the role of a collective-farm manager is exceptionally great. But if a collective-farm manager is inefficient, the collective farmers should remove him and put in his stead a capable organizer. It would be wrong to relieve the collective farmers themselves of responsibility for the state of their farm. A collective is a great force. With due persistence, purposive effort and high labour discipline the lag of any collective farm can be swiftly eliminated.

In the past, there were great obstacles on this road. You know that during the years of the personality cult, the Leninist policy of utmost support to the collective-farm system was grossly distorted. Stalin demanded of the collective farms only one thing: to give more to the state. He was not interested in the conditions of the collective farms and their ability to cope with the tasks given them. You know that during that period it was forbidden, on the pain of criminal prosecution, to hook up the collective farms to the state power systems. Collective farms were not allowed to have their own agricultural machinery. Even harrows were not sold to the collective farms.

The way the needs of the collective farms were ignored was most strikingly manifested in the policy of the procurement prices. As I have already said, the procurement prices which existed at that time did not even cover the outlays of the collective farms for production needs. The collective farms, for example, were paid 97 kopecks per centner of wheat, 47 kopecks per centner of potatoes, etc. That was a hard time for the collective farms, for workers in agriculture. Although, it must be said, that even during that period collective farms headed by capable organizers were operated well and at a profit.

The Central Committee of the CPSU and the Soviet Government have resolutely put an end to the distortions in economic policy with regard to the collective farms. Today purchasing prices for collective-farm produce have been set which ensure the profitable operation of each farm, the successful development of social production and an increase in remuneration of the labour of the collective farmers.

I want to recall how much the collective farms were paid per centner of produce prior to 1953 and what the purchasing prices are today. For a centner of produce a collective farm was paid (in roubles):

	1952	1963
Wheat	0.97	7.56
Maize (grain)	0.54	7.66
Peas	1.31	20.23
Beans	1.47	35.00
Sugar beet	1.05	2.87
Raw cotton	31.88	38.30
Sunflower seed	1.92	18.10
Tobacco	72.03	176.65
Potatoes	0.47	7.10
Vegetables	1.92	7.52
Beef *	2.03	79.90
Pork *	6.72	98.00
Milk	2.52	12.18
Eggs (per thousand)	19.90	70.00
Wool	106.80	378.67

* live weight

As you see, the difference is quite substantial. The present system of purchasing prices strikingly reflects the Party's concern for supporting the collective-farm system—a great force of social socialist production.

But we have a right today also to ask the following question, if the present purchasing prices provide all collective farms with the opportunity to operate at a profit, why do we still have lagging collective farms? The crux of the matter is the quality of leadership, the discipline of the collective farmers and their attitude to work and to the commonly owned economy.

Allow me to cite one example. Two collective farms are located in the Beryozovsk Production Management Board, Odessa Region: the Collective Farm named after the 21st Congress of the CPSU (Chairman—Makar Anisimovich Posmitny) and the Suvorov Collective Farm (Chairman—Valentin Stepanovich Sachkov). They have equal soil and climatic conditions. Their material and technical resources are also not so different, as seen from the following data:

	Collective Farm named after the 21st Party Congress	Suvorov Collec- tive Farm
Tractors per 1,000 hectares of plough- land	10.4	11.3
Actual purchasing prices paid per cent- ner of produce, taking into account the quality	7.62 roubles	7.43 roubles
Grain		

Meat	90.92 roubles	63.33 roubles
Milk	11.21 roubles	11.40 roubles
Sugar beet	2.68 roubles	2.06 roubles
Ploughland per able-bodied member	3.6 hectares	4.6 hectares

These figures show that the production potentialities of both collective farms enable them to operate successfully. The amount of ploughland per able-bodied member is not so great in both, there is enough machinery and the purchasing prices are the same. True, the Collective Farm named after the 21st Party Congress was actually paid more per centner of meat than the Suvorov Collective Farm. But this already is due to the quality of the meat, that is, depends on the people, on the managers of the collective farms and the collective farmers.

And now let us see what were the results of the operation of these two collective farms.

Their opportunities being equal, the collective farms registered the following results last year:

	Collective Farm named after the 21st Party Congress	Suvorov Collective Farm
Production of grain per hectare of ploughland in 1962 (in centners)	19.3	14.6
Produced per 100 hectares of land (in centners):		
Meat in slaughter weight	98.5	25.0
Milk	480	168
	Collective Farm named after the 21st Party Congress	Suvorov Collective Farm
The farms have per 100 hectares		
Cattle	60	36
of which cows	23	14
Money income per 100 hectares, 1,000 roubles	39.8	8.1
Money income per able-bodied member in 1963, roubles	1,822	506

These figures show that the Collective Farm named after the 21st Party Congress is operating more successfully

and is making much bigger contribution to the common pool of our people than the Suvorov Collective Farm. The question is, can the members of these two collective farms be placed in an absolutely equal position as regard pensions? I do not think so, this would be unfair with regard to the members of the advanced collective farm.

All this should be reflected in our policy of pensions for collective farmers. What are the main provisions of the draft law? It calls for the introduction of old-age and disability pensions for collective farmers and pensions for children who lost their breadwinner and also for paid maternity leave for women collective farmers.

Old-age pensions to collective farmers are to be given: to men who reach the age of 65 and have a labour record of not less than 25 years and women who reach the age of 60 and have a labour record of not less than 20 years. Work in other branches of the economy and service in the Soviet Army are included in the labour record.

The amount of old-age pensions is to be set depending on the earnings, namely: 50 per cent of earnings up to 50 roubles a month, and 25 per cent of all earnings above that sum. Thus, a collective farmer who, for example, receives for his work 50 roubles a month will get a pension of 25 roubles; a collective farmer getting 70 roubles, a pension of 30 roubles. A collective farmer who earns 30 roubles, will get a pension of 15 roubles.

Here, comrades, the development level of the collective farm will tell on the pensions received by its members. In a collective farm where the level of production is higher and consequently the earnings of the members and contributions to the pension fund are higher, the pensions will also be bigger.

The minimum old-age pension is fixed at 12 roubles a month. The maximum pension is contemplated within the bounds set for state-farm workers, that is, 102 roubles a month.

In collective farms where pensions exceed the amount set by the law, the collective farms themselves may decide to preserve the amount of pensions they pay. In that case the additional sum to the state pensions will be contributed by the collective farm.

Another question also arises. In some collective farms the pensions set for the members are lower than those contemplated in the draft law. As a rule these are collective

farms with an insufficiently developed economy and low production level. The contribution of such farms to the pension fund, in view of the insufficient level of production, will now be insignificant. How are we to act in such cases in fixing the amount of pension? For a certain time, as I have already said, a different level of pensions will be preserved for members of collective farms with a different degree of the development of their economy and a different level of production, and consequently different contributions to the pension fund.

At present all collective farms have been provided with the requisites for increasing agricultural production. By utilizing the favourable opportunities, the collective farms will be able to increase production and raise their incomes. In this connection contributions to the pension fund will grow and consequently pensions too will be evened out. But for the transition period, I repeat, it will be necessary to preserve the principle of fixing pensions depending on the quantity and quality of work contributed by each collective farmer, that is, taking into account how the collective farmer participated in production throughout his work, what contribution he made to producing material wealth. By the way, the system of pensions to factory and office workers in our country has also been established on such a basis.

The draft law has a provision for encouraging collective farmers who after the appointment of pensions do not stop working in the collective farm. If a collective farmer, after the appointment of a pension continues to work, he will be paid the fixed pension regardless of the earnings he gets. Moreover, if after the appointment of a pension, a collective farmer will have higher earnings for two years, the pension may be raised in accordance with these earnings. This will stimulate the active participation of collective farmers in social production and encourage them to work more productively.

Collective farmers who are negligent in their work in the collective farm, may be given a lower pension or none at all on the decision of the collective-farm board or the general membership meeting.

Pensions of collective farmers are to be calculated on the basis of the average monthly earnings in the collective farms for any consecutive five years out of the last 15 years before applying for a pension.

Disability pensions are to be given to invalids of the first and second categories. If disability set in as a result of an injury on the job or an occupational ailment the pension is to be paid regardless of the labour record. In case when disability is due to a general ailment, the labour record necessary for receiving a pension will range from 1 to 20 years, depending on the collective farmer's age, that is, the same way as it is stipulated in the state pension law for factory and office workers.

Women collective farmers need a smaller labour record as compared with men for receiving a disability pension. For example, a woman aged 53 needs a labour record of 13 years for getting a disability pension, while a man of this age needs 16 years.

It is expedient to calculate the amount of disability pension on the basis of the actual earnings of the collective farmer, just as in the case of old-age pensions. First-category invalids are to receive the same pension as old-age pensioners and second-category invalids a somewhat lower pension.

Pensions in case of a breadwinner's death are to be given to dependents of the deceased collective farmers: to children if they have not reached the age of 16 (students the age of 18) or to invalids of the first and second category since childhood. The amount of a pension depends on the earnings of the breadwinner and the number of children.

The maximum pension for disablement and in case of the loss of a breadwinner is determined at the level of the maximum pension for disablement and in case of the loss of breadwinner envisaged in the Law on state pensions for factory and office workers and their families residing permanently in the countryside and engaged in agriculture.

The Law introduces maternity allowances for collective farm women. They are granted a paid leave of 56 calendar days before delivery and of 56 calendar days after delivery. The allowances will be paid in keeping with the entitlements for factory and office women workers.

The establishment of pensions for members of collective farms and their children, and also of allowances to women collective farmers should be entrusted to pension commissions at the executive committees of District and City Soviets of Deputies of Working People on the recommendations of the boards of collective farms. It is planned to entrust the bodies of social maintenance with the issuing of the pensions and allowances.

I wish to inform the session that the government is taking measures to regulate the pension system for machine-operators and specialists working in collective farms.

The adoption of the law on pensions and benefits for collective farmers will be an act of great political and state importance. Realizing social maintenance for collective farmers on a new basis we are thereby implementing the provision of the Programme of the CPSU which says:

"In keeping with the growth of the national income, the organs of state, the trade unions, and the kolkhozes will in the course of 20 years gradually undertake maintenance of all citizens incapacitated through old age or some disability. Sickness and disability grants and old age pensions will be extended to kolkhoz members; old age and disability pensions will be steadily raised."

The plans set in the Programme of the Party are being implemented in our life, are becoming a tangible reality. However, comrades, communist construction, the creation of material foundation of the new society is an extensive and strenuous work.

The introduction of a uniform system of pensions in collective farms will stimulate a new upsurge of creative activity of the workers of countryside in their devoted and noble struggle for new successes of agriculture. There are no doubts that our glorious collective-farm peasantry will respond to the solicitude of the Party and government by remarkable labour achievements, will make a worthy contribution to the construction of communism in our country.

Comrade Deputies!

You are aware that the agriculture of our country suffered big losses owing to the drought last year. The devastating drought hit the biggest farming areas of the country—the Ukraine, the Don, the Volga regions, Siberia, the Urals, Tselinny Territory in Kazakhstan. As a result the country had not received hundreds of millions of poods of grain, of wheat in particular. True, even in those difficult conditions we had procured 2,735,000,000 poods of grain as against 1,900,000,000 poods procured in 1953. This fact has been an illustration of the increased economic might of our collective-farm system, the high degree of organization and the devoted work of the workers of state farms and of the collective farmers.

At the same time it has been necessary to make most serious conclusions from the lessons of the previous unfavourable year in agriculture, to adopt effective measures so as to place the production of grain and other products on a more solid foundation, to guarantee the country from the disastrous influences of unfavourable weather conditions.

The Party has unfolded great activity along these lines. The December and the February Plenary Meetings of the Central Committee had worked out a specific programme for the development of chemicalization and irrigation, for the intensification of agriculture. Certainly, little time has passed since and it is still early to draw conclusions. It should be said, however, that the measures adopted by the Party are yielding the initial results. The Programme of intensification of farming production finds its implementation in the concrete deeds of collective and state farms, of farming specialists.

Much has been done this year to grow a fine harvest, to supply the country with more grain and other products. We have concentrated the application of mineral fertilizers for the cereal crops in those areas where they give the maximum additional yield to the harvest. The area sown to the most productive varieties of wheat has been increased, namely such varieties as "Bezostaya-1", "Mironovskaya-808", "Saratovskaya-29" and others. The collective and state farms have considerably increased the area sown to maize, rice and wheat in the irrigated lands. The cereal crops in the watered areas occupy in the current year more than 2 million hectares. Much work has been done to train the personnel in the advanced methods of cultivating agricultural crops.

In spite of the late and rather difficult spring, the sowing of summer crops was carried out in a highly organized way and in a short period of time. Areas under the more valuable crops have been expanded. As compared with 1963, areas under wheat have increased by more than 3 million hectares, under legumes by 271,000 hectares, under industrial sugar beet by 485,000 hectares, and under sunflower by 200,000 hectares. Areas under other industrial crops and vegetables have also increased. All this should have a favourable effect on the results of the agricultural year.

The picture in most parts of the country is rather promising. In the south, where grain harvesting is in full

swing, the collective farms and state farms are gathering wheat, barley and other crops. On the eve of spring the grain growers of the Kuban area undertook to sell the state 230—250 million poods of grain in 1964. This is a fine pledge. The farmers of the Krasnodar Territory have done much to grow a good crop. Now the harvesting of grain is in progress, and there can be no doubt that they will keep their word and sell the state more than they have.

These are remarkable figures, comrades. But recently the Kuban area supplied the state with 100 million poods of grain and a yield of 20 centners per hectare was considered a fine one. Now many collective farms and state farms of the Kuban area get a yield of 30—40 and more centners per hectare.

According to the reports of local officials and the comrades who have been to the republics and regions, there are good prospects for the crop in the Rostov, Volgograd, Saratov, Kuibyshev, Voronezh, Penza, Tambov, Orenburg, Chelyabinsk, Kurgan, Omsk, Novosibirsk, Kemerovo, and Irkutsk regions, in the Altai and Krasnoyarsk territories, in the Bashkir ASSR, and in other parts of the Russian Federation, in the Tselinny and West-Kazakhstan territories, in the republics of Central Asia, and Transcaucasia. I have been told that a good crop has been grown in such important granaries of the Ukraine as the Zaporozhye, Dniepropetrovsk, Kherson, Kharkov, Lugansk, Donetsk and some other regions.

Quite a good job has been done by the farmers of Kazakhstan to provide the country with 1,000 million poods of grain. The farmers of the virgin land reclaimed areas did a fine job during the sowing campaign, overcame considerable difficulties of the late spring, and laid a firm foundation for a good harvest. Now rains are falling there and there are good stores of moisture and the cereals are growing in normal conditions. Specialists and scientists report that the situation for getting a good grain crop is favourable. The farmers in the virgin land reclaimed areas will have to pass a serious test at harvest time. It should be kept in mind that as a result of the late spring in the Tselinny Territory and other eastern areas the harvesting periods will be reduced to the utmost. It is necessary to prepare the personnel and machinery in a proper way, and organize efficiently the harvesting so as to pass with honour this responsible test and bring the country new successes.

So, real possibilities are emerging for obtaining enough grain this year to fulfil—and in many districts even to overfulfil—the plan of grain procurements, to meet the country's grain requirements in full and to store substantial quantities of it.

It should be said that this year also in some parts of the country—in Byelorussia, Polesye, the forest-and-steppe belt of the Ukraine and in some of the regions of the North-West—dry weather has affected the state of areas under cereals, flax and some other crops. True, rains have fallen in these parts by now, and there is every opportunity for getting a good yield from such crops as maize, sugar beet, potatoes and others.

However, comrades, though the drought affected only an insignificant part of the territory, it reminded us once again of the need for developing irrigated farming, and not only in the arid zones but also in the areas of sufficient humidity which in certain periods of the year have high temperatures so that plants suffer from a lack of water. It is necessary to make maximum use of local reservoirs for irrigation and to organize irrigated cultivation of those crops which are the most rational and produce the greatest economic effect.

Take, for instance, the Moscow, Kalinin, and some other regions of the zone of the so-called sufficient humidity. The current year shows that these areas are not guaranteed from drought either. However, they have fine conditions for irrigated plant cultivation—many rivers, lakes and ponds. It is not difficult to set up on any farm there irrigated sections and have guaranteed yields of maize, potatoes, vegetables and other crops. This is economically profitable and any collective or state farm can do it.

I would like to make special mention of maize. Using irrigated areas in this zone and a proper selection of species one can obtain 700—800 centners of green mass per hectare ensuring good silo for dairy cattle. Practice has proved that maize can be grown many years in a row on one and the same field. If you have irrigated areas under maize and ensure the introduction of necessary quantities of fertilizers and herbicides, this will produce a great economic effect, because, though capital expenditures are made for many years, they are repaid very quickly. Consequently, these will be rational capital investments.

I consider that it will also be profitable to grow potato

on irrigated areas though potato calls for crop rotation. To meet the requirements of the urban population, it would be advisable to organize the sowing of marketable potatoes on irrigated areas, to allot fertilizers for these areas and to use on an extensive scale the organic-mineral compounds according to Academician T. D. Lysenko's method. I am sure that the expenditures on the irrigation of areas under potatoes will be repaid in a year or two, and we shall have good crops regardless of weather conditions.

Therefore, it is necessary to select fields for organizing irrigated sections now, to prepare personnel and the equipment necessary. For this purpose, it is possible to use not only the farm means, but also to allocate long-term state credits.

Our Party and the Soviet people are doing everything possible to achieve new success in the development of agricultural production. We shall spare neither effort nor means to attain in agriculture the high quotas envisaged by the Communist Party.

ON RAISING WAGES OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN PUBLIC EDUCATION, HEALTH SYSTEM, HOUSING COMMUNAL ECONOMY, TRADE, PUBLIC CATERING AND OTHER BRANCHES OF NATIONAL ECONOMY DIRECTLY SERVICING THE POPULATION

Comrade Deputies,

The raising of the living standards of the people in our country is achieved both by increasing wages and reducing retail prices of consumer goods, as well as by the enlargement of public consumption funds. Increasing and enlarging public consumption funds, the Party and the government at the same time consider that the raising of wages at the present stage of communist construction is a most important source of growth of the living standards of the industrial, professional and office workers and a decisive means of implementing the Leninist principle of material incentive.

The growth of wages in the socialist planned economy should be based on a sober assessment of the state of economy, the level of productivity of socially useful labour attained, on the development of the production of consumer goods and agricultural products. The growth of labour productivity

should always be in advance of the growth of wages. This is a law. Only by increasing labour productivity is it possible to create conditions for raising wages.

In recent years measures were adopted in our country for adjusting wages, first of all, in the sphere of production—in industry, construction, transport and state agricultural enterprises, i. e., in those branches where material values are produced, branches on the successful development of which depends the well-being of the nation. More than 50 million industrial, professional and office workers have been transferred to new conditions of payment. As calculated per annum, the country's industrial, professional and office workers have received additionally about 4,500 million roubles. As a result, in the past five years the average annual wages in the above mentioned branches have increased by 13—25 per cent. The minimum wages have increased from 27—35 roubles to 40—45 roubles a month.

The wages of persons engaged in education, public health and other branches grew in smaller proportions than those in the sphere of production.

Now, as a result of new successes in the development of the economy, opportunities have appeared for raising the wages of the working people engaged in the sphere of public service including such large contingents of Soviet intellectuals as medical workers and teachers.

Under the conditions of socialism the place and importance of the branches directly connected with the servicing of the population, as well as the position of their workers in society, have radically changed as compared to capitalism. In capitalist society the sphere of public service is a field of exploitation, just as much as the sphere of production. Culture, art and public health in that society are mainly in private hands and are imbued with a spirit of mercenariness and lust for profit.

With a passion of revolutionaries Marx and Engels wrote the following in the Communist Manifesto: "The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honoured and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage-labourers." (K. Marx and F. Engels, *Works*, Vol. 4, 1955, p. 427, Russ. Ed.)

Under socialism the entire material basis of culture and public health is the property of the people, society undertakes to be responsible for the upbringing of the growing

generation, for education, for the protection of public health, for pension insurance and for the improvement of the living conditions of the working people. It is common knowledge that the solution of the basic problems of communist construction, set forth by the CPSU Programme, depends, first of all, on the development of the branches of material production. That is why the Party devotes special attention to the growth of the most progressive branches of industry and agriculture.

Material production is the source of all wealth. However, material production proper, modern technical progress, and the living and working conditions of the Soviet people call for a corresponding development in the sphere of public service. A lag in the sphere of public service can harm production and the living standards of the working people.

The improvement of socialist production and the setting up of the material and technical basis of communism call for educated and highly skilled personnel. "The growth of the productive forces, progress in engineering and in the organization of production, increased social activity of the working people, development of the democratic principles of self-government, and a communist reorganization of every-day life depend in a very large measure on the cultural advancement of the population," says the Programme of our Party.

The Party is solving the problem of rearing the man of communist society who would harmoniously combine a wealth of spirit, moral purity and physical perfection. That is why the Party attaches tremendous importance to education and culture, to the organization of public health, physical culture and sport.

The state of public service is of equally great importance for the versatile development of man and the growth of production. The mood of the people, the productivity of labour, and the sensible use of their leisure depend on how well man's every-day life is arranged and what cultural service he gets. The improvement of every-day services is indispensable for the emancipation of women from arduous household work. This will help to attract many millions of women to more productive labour in economy.

We all know what a great role is played by the workers in enterprises and establishments directly servicing the population. Every Soviet citizen spends the greater part of

his time outside his job and makes use of the services of various cultural and public service establishments and organizations. Nobody can manage without the services of a shop or canteen, of a cinema or a tailoring shop, of a house management office or a museum, of a polyclinic or a library. There are millions of honest workers engaged in these establishments, people who devote their energy and experience to their work. It is necessary to encourage the work of the employees in the sphere of public service and show attention and concern for them.

The CPSU Central Committee, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions have studied the situation in relation to wages of those employed in public services and submit proposals on raising the pay of people engaged in public education, the health services, housing communal economy, trade, public catering and other branches of the national economy connected with public service.

Comrade Deputies, the corresponding draft law is being submitted for consideration by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and copies of it will be distributed among you. The Central Committee of the CPSU, Council of Ministers of the USSR and All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions have worked out concrete steps for carrying this law into effect.

A new system of payment will be introduced for over 18 million people, including

2.2 million teachers and 2.6 million other workers of education;

over 500,000 doctors and more than 1.5 million trained nurses, doctor assistants and other medium medical personnel;

about 1.3 million hospital attendants and other junior medical personnel;

upwards of two million workers in housing and communal services;

more than four million workers of trade and public catering establishments.

Permit me to speak about the measures for raising the wages of individual categories of workers.

In Public Education

All of us, comrades, take legitimate pride in the successes of public education. In our country there are the necessary facilities for receiving education by every man and woman

in keeping with his or her calling and the needs of society, with an eight-year schooling being universal and compulsory.

Socialist society has solved the fundamental problem, clearing the road to education, to the heights of science and culture for the broadest masses of the people. It has made education free and ever takes upon itself the cost of upbringing the young generation.

Look how the level of education has changed in the USSR during the past 25 years. According to the USSR census there were about 16 million people with higher or secondary education in the Soviet Union in 1939, while by the beginning of 1964 the figure was 72.4 million, or a 4.5-fold increase. As I have already mentioned, every second person employed in our country has a secondary or higher education.

In the Soviet Union there are over 220,000 schools, 742 colleges and universities, and about 8,000 specialized secondary and vocational schools. Some 65 million people are embraced by one or another type of education. Thus, one person out of three over the age of seven is studying. The achievements in the field of public education arouse the admiration of millions in all parts of the world. The peoples see that in a country which has built socialism education promotes the growth of the material and cultural wealth of society.

The Party regards the development of the new man as a matter of prime importance in the communist transformation of society. The school is the foundation of the people's culture. In present conditions its role is enhanced still further. The younger generation is taking up from the old generation the baton of revolutionary transformations in every sphere of human endeavour.

Soviet teachers always play their part in all undertakings of the people. They actively assist the Party in the education of the man of communist society. It is well known how highly Lenin valued the teacher. Lenin demanded that close attention be paid to the cultural advance of the teacher and his material condition.

A man spends several years at school. He is taught by many teachers. He grows up, becomes old but keeps forever the good memory of his school. Everyone of us recollects his teachers and tutors with deep gratitude and heartfelt warmth, forgetting neither attentive eye nor their kind words or strict reprimands. Such a teacher is happy and his work is immortal in the hearts of people.

To say frankly, I often remember my first teacher, Lidia Mikhailovna Shevchenko. The pupils to whom she opened the window into the world came into it, have tried and are trying to change it for the better. They realize that their modest teacher stands at the source of their strength.

Every teacher hopes for this most precious award—to be remembered in the hearts of other people. There are very many teachers in our country of whom one can compose songs. They are modest people. They have acquired great knowledge and clearly realize their aim—to bring up fighters for the cause of communism, good citizens and workmen.

I was told of Anna Dmitriyevna Nesterenko, a teacher from the Ukraine. She was awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour and a Honoured teacher. Anna Dmitriyevna teaches biology at the Verba boarding-school. Her pupils get excellent knowledge and a good training for work. The nearby farms to which they come to work cannot help dotting on the able, competent and diligent workers.

Olympiada Ivanovna Chuprova from the town of Bor in the Gorky Region has been teaching at school for 40 years. She has received government decorations for her work. It is said that when in class she told her pupils about grain, how it grows and what labour it costs for the people to grow it the adults present at the lesson called it a poem about grain. Years will pass and her present pupils may forget the details of this lesson but they will keep forever respect for grain, the sacred work of those who grow it.

Ivan Fyodorovich Razdymalir, a Party member, has been working at school for twenty years. He is an instructor in vocational training at the Kosten secondary school in the Voronezh Region. This talented experimenter, who recently defended his thesis for the candidate of agricultural sciences, is an example to the pupils. Ivan Fyodorovich has the mind of a scientist and the hands of a master craftsman. He can instil in his pupils the love for land, machines and the thirst for knowledge.

Yelena Georgiyevna Tokareva, a teacher of chemistry and head-mistress of Rostov School No. 1, has become an instructor of not only the youth but also of other teachers. Teachers from various parts of the country come to this school to learn her experience.

When I wished to know the names of good teachers I was given so many that even a mere enumeration of them would not be possible in a many-hour report. This is gratifying,

comrades. The more good teachers there are, the more good people, good young citizens and true Communists they will educate.

The increase in the salaries of educational workers is a new manifestation of the concern for an improvement of their everyday life.

Under the draft law the salaries of educational workers are to be raised by an average of 25 per cent. For certain categories, for the pedagogical staff at pre-school establishments, for instance, salaries will rise by an average of nearly 40 per cent. The total increases on the salaries of teachers and the workers of cultural and educational establishments will exceed 1,000 million roubles a year. This is approximately as much as was spent on the salaries of all educational workers in 1940. Thus the state allocates large additional sums.

Up till now a primary school teacher with higher education received the same pay as a teacher with secondary specialized education. This is why the most qualified primary school teachers strove to teach in senior forms. The teachers of general subjects at secondary specialized and vocational schools receive less than their colleagues at secondary schools though the character of their work and demands made on them are the same. The pay rates of rural teachers are now lower than those of urban teachers, and this difference will be eliminated by the new law.

The draft law proposes equal pay rates for teachers of town and village and secondary specialized and vocational schools, depending on their education and the record of work as a teacher.

I shall give the main data on the existing and proposed pay rates for teachers.

	Paid now	To be paid under draft law
Teachers with higher education (with work record of less than five years)		
a. Forms 1—4		
village	52	80
town	57	80
b. Forms 5—7		
village	63	80

town	69	80
c. Forms 8—11		
village	66	80
town	71	80
Teachers with higher education (with work record from 5 to 10 years)		
village	57—71	90
town	63—76	90
Teachers with higher education (with work record from 10 to 25 years)		
village	63—76	100
town	69—85	100
Teachers with higher education (with work record of over 25 years)		
village	98—118 (pension incl.)	137
town	106—131 (pension incl.)	137

Besides, teachers are paid additionally for class guidance and for grading written works, and their monthly salaries will amount, depending upon a work record, to 85—160 roubles.

The salaries of primary school teachers with a secondary pedagogical education will increase by an average of 30 per cent.

New pay rates are established on the basis of 24 lessons a week for the teachers of 1—4 forms, and 18 hours for the teachers of 5—11 forms of grade, secondary specialized and vocational schools. Indisputably, as the number of their classes increases their salaries will rise correspondingly.

Speaking about a new pay system for public education workers, I would like to deal with another question. I mean teacher's pensions. At present after 25 years of work teachers are entitled to long-service pensions. Pensions are paid both to working teachers and those who retired upon achieving the necessary term of service. Many teachers will ask, how it is proposed to solve the problem of long-service pensions after raising their salaries. I may say that the interests of teachers will be fully safeguarded. The present system of long-service pensions to retired teachers remains unchanged. As for the teachers who will remain on the job after working more than 25 years, they will receive higher salaries than they are receiving now together with a pension.

In this way, long-service pensions are more than compensated by the increased pay rates and, therefore, there is no need for giving such pensions to working teachers. The introduction of new rates and salaries for the teachers with a work record of more than 25 years will bring them an additional benefit—upon reaching the pensionable age they will receive old-age pensions calculated on the basis of the new, increased, salaries and, as a result, the size of pensions will grow.

Salaries will also be raised considerably for the workers of clubs, museums, public libraries, school technical personnel, pre-school and cultural establishments. The increased salaries of teachers and other workers in public education and culture will promote a better supply of the qualified personnel to schools and higher standards of instruction and educational work.

The higher the teacher's prestige in the society, the more young people will want to devote themselves to this honourable profession. The most worthy of the youth, enthusiastic and quick-witted, who love children, should be carefully prepared for the high mission of a teacher. Soviet children should be brought up by educated, true-to-high-ideal and morally pure people capable of instilling in children love for the Soviet Homeland, for work for the good of the nation.

A law strengthening the ties of school with life, adopted by the Supreme Soviet, has improved the system of public education. At the basis of this law lies the Leninist idea of combining studies with productive labour. Receiving varied knowledge at secondary school, boys and girls start independent life more prepared for work.

More than five years have passed since the adoption of this law; a wealth of experience has been accumulated. At present it is necessary to study it and take further measures for improving the public education system on the basis of combining studies with socially useful work, simultaneously ensuring high standards of general-educational instruction. The questions in the order for the day are those of organizing secondary schools, similar to the factory schools of the past, in villages and towns, and providing more favourable opportunities for the young people to receive complete secondary education without leaving their jobs. The material and technical basis of the school should be strengthened, shift studies abolished, and a definite reduction in the instruction period of secondary and vocational schools considered, the system of pre-school facilities, prolonged-

day schools and groups and other forms for the social upbringing of children further developed.

Problems of improving public education demand special consideration. The Central Committee of the CPSU and Soviet Government are studying the experience of school reorganization so that to adopt in the future a number of additional decisions on questions of public education.

Public education workers are faced with the important tasks of raising the standards of instruction and education for the younger generation. Undoubtedly, their efforts will greatly contribute to the solution of these lofty tasks.

In the Field of Health Services

Comrade Deputies!

Universal free health services are a great achievement of the Socialist revolution in the Soviet Union. Medical workers work selflessly side by side with all Soviet people. The doctor, doctor's assistant, nurse, pharmacist, assistant nurse, all medical workers care for the people's health.

With the development of the socialist economy, with the rise in the well-being and culture of the people, the improvement in working conditions, and also, thanks to the activities of medical workers and the successes of medical science, the health of the population in our country is steadily improving. There is a drop in the sick rate, in the general death rate and in child mortality. Before the revolution 43 per cent of all infants up to the age of five died. In other words, almost half of the children died before reaching the age of five. Today the mortality in this age group has dropped to 4.3 per cent. There is an increase in the average span of life. Many grave diseases which in the past were a great calamity for the people have been eliminated. Our country which before the revolution had an exceedingly high death rate has in recent years become a country with the lowest death rate.

The state allocates enormous funds for building medical prophylactic establishments, for the training and upkeep of medical personnel. Nowhere in the world is there such a large network of medical establishments, such a number of medical workers as in the Soviet Union. More than 4 million

are employed in the public health, social welfare and physical culture system. There are more than 500,000 doctors working in our country (this is 25 per cent of all doctors in the world); more than 1.5 million intermediate medical personnel and more than 100,000 pharmacutists. The population of the USSR is to a considerably higher degree provided with doctors than the people in such highly developed capitalist countries, as the United States, Britain, France, and West Germany.

Numerous sanatoria, rest homes, night sanatoria, tourist centres and stadiums are at the disposal of the working people. All this facilitates a drop in the sick rate, an improvement in health and an increase in labour productivity.

Our people highly value those who devote all their efforts to safeguarding the health of the working people.

Dmitry Linkov has been working for 25 years as a village doctor including 20 years in the Otradnoe village hospital, Stupino district, Moscow Region. Within this period of time the surgeon and communist performed some 3,000 operations, including many intricate ones. Day and night, in bad weather, he visits his patients, makes the rounds of distant villages and the entire population, both old and young, know their doctor. He is a deputy to the district Soviet and chairman of the standing commission on public health. In 1962 he was awarded the title of Honoured Doctor of the Russian Federation.

Here is another doctor worthy of a kind word: Yekaterina Baranova has already been working for 15 years as a district children's doctor in Novgorod. This doctor is also known both by children and adults. She is never stingy with her time: in any weather and under all conditions she comes to the assistance of a sick child. It is to her credit that infectious diseases have disappeared among the children of her district. The people are grateful to her for her kind heart, good deeds and profound knowledge. Recently the title of Honoured Doctor of the Russian Federation was conferred on Yekaterina Baranova.

Doctor Mikhail Savelyev from Yelshanki village, Kuybyshev Region, has shown a remarkable example of service to the people. He has been working in the village hospital for more than 25 years and together with his small closely-knit collective has transformed the hospital in Yelshanki into a model health centre with a fine reputation.

- I could name many doctors, nurses and junior medical

workers, people not only of a high qualification but of a great heart.

The proposals to increase wages, submitted for the consideration of the Supreme Soviet, are a new manifestation of the concern of the Party and the government for public health workers.

The draft law envisages a rise in wages and the introduction of uniform conditions for remunerating all workers in public health and physical culture, irrespective of departmental subordination, and also the establishment of a more correct correlation between the salaries of individual categories of workers. The wages of persons engaged in public health, social maintenance and physical culture and sports will increase by an average of 23 per cent. The total sum of this increase to their wages will amount to 650 million roubles.

Remuneration for medical workers will depend on the labour record and experience of work. Doctors with a better record will receive a higher salary.

Here, comrades, are the salaries envisaged by the draft law:

	Present salary	Salary envisaged by draft law
Doctors with work record of up to 5 years		
in city hospitals and polyclinics	72.5	90
in rural district hospitals	75	100
in village district hospitals	75	105
With work record of 5 to 10 years		
in city hospitals and polyclinics	80	100
in rural district hospitals	83	110
in village district hospitals	83	115
With work record of 10 to 25 years		
in city hospitals and polyclinics	95	110
in rural district hospitals	98	120
in village district hospitals	98	125
With work record of 25 to 30 years		
in city hospitals and polyclinics	108	125

The salaries of doctors with a labour record of more than 25 years in the village and more than 30 years in the city together with pensions today amount to 151 roubles. According to the draft law the new salaries for these doctors are planned at 165—170 roubles a month.

For the most skilled doctors who will be attested accord-

ing to the highest category, an increase of 30 roubles to their monthly salary is envisaged. In this case the salary of a doctor in the countryside with a work record exceeding 25 years and in the city with a work record over 30 years will amount to 195—200 roubles.

The wages of the intermediary and junior medical personnel are also being increased. Whereas today doctors' assistants depending on their labour record, have salaries ranging from 50 to 70 roubles and when taking into account pensions for those with a labour record of more than 25—30 years—up to 98 roubles, now their salaries have been fixed ranging from 65 to 110 roubles a month. Nurses instead of salaries of 45—67 roubles, and up to 94 roubles taking into account pensions, will have salaries of 60 to 110 roubles. The salaries of hospital attendants are being increased from 35—45 roubles to 45—50 roubles. Medical workers engaged in infectious, tubercular and other wards with harder working conditions will get an additional 15 per cent increase in salaries.

The fixing and payment of seniority pensions for doctors will be conducted according to the same principle as for teachers.

The increase in wages for doctors and other medical personnel will aid in the further development of Soviet public health. The steady improvement in medical services for the population demands a wider utilization of present-day achievements of science, the search for, and introduction of effective methods and means for treating diseases, the carrying out of disease-prevention measures. Special attention should be concentrated on solving problems connected with treatment of cardio-vascular, and virus diseases, on delving into the causes of cancer and the elaboration of measures for their prevention and treatment.

Workers of the medical industry should ensure the manufacture of the latest modern medical apparatus, instruments and new medicinal preparations in order to meet the requirements of public health and medical science.

It is very important to organize and widely spread health education among the people. Medical workers are called upon not only to master the latest achievements in science but also to arm the working people with medical knowledge, to draw the population and public organizations into improving sanitation in town and countryside.

While highly appreciating the noble work of medical officers, our Party and government hope that they will exert all their efforts and knowledge for the all-round improvement of medical services for the population.

In the Sphere of Trade and Public Catering

I shall now pass on to the question of increasing wages for workers in trade and public catering.

The socialist system has placed trade at the service of the people, subordinated its development to the interests of society. Considerable changes have taken place during the past ten years in trade and public catering. It has already been pointed out how the sale of consumer goods and foodstuffs to the population has increased. Tens of millions of people use the services of public catering establishments daily. There is an increase in the role and an expansion in the activities of consumer cooperatives.

The fulfilment of the tasks for the further development of Soviet trade, for expanding the network of shops and canteens, for developing new forms of trade and improving the service will to a considerable degree depend on reinforcing the trade system with skilled personnel and raising their material incentive.

The draft law envisages an average wage-increase of 15 per cent for workers engaged in trade and an average 25 per cent increase for those in public catering. There will be a considerably larger increase in wages in the rural consumer cooperatives.

Workers in trade and public catering will receive on the average an additional 550 million roubles a year.

Remuneration for work in trade and public catering is made dependent on the volume and complexity of the work fulfilled. The size of tariff rates for cooks, pastry cooks and other public catering workers is increased to approximately the level at present existing in the food industry. A greater role in earnings will be played by bonuses for increasing trade with good services to customers and for a high quality cooking.

In 1961 wages were increased on the average by 50 per cent for shop assistants in shops belonging to state trade as well as in those of consumer cooperatives selling agricultural produce in cities. More than 130 million roubles a

year were required for this purpose. At present a certain new increase in salaries is envisaged for shop assistants and additional 100 million roubles are allocated for this purpose. In state trade and in the consumer cooperative system, the same salary scale is being established.

When speaking of improving the conditions of workers in trade I would like to make several remarks on the organization of trade and public catering. The further growth in the manufacture of consumer goods, higher requirements as to the quality of goods and trade services place more complicated tasks before workers in this sphere. In our time it is impossible to conduct trade in the old way using methods of mechanically distributing goods.

At present specialized trade firms are being organized in the towns and rural areas—firms for selling durable goods which unite several specialized shops, and there is an opportunity of concentrating large resources of goods, of establishing direct ties with industrial enterprises. Shops are being opened by individual factories, plants and combines which facilitates the development of Soviet trade. It is necessary that they be shops of definite firms not only according to their signboards but also according to their essence.

An improvement in the efficiency of servicing the working people is inconceivable without the introduction of a new, modern forms and methods of trade. What is in mind is the selling of goods on open display and according to samples, organizing the order-delivery system, the cutting of fabrics and small alterations when selling ready-made clothes. And finally, self-service in shops and canteens. All these good forms of trade have won recognition and should be further improved and widely introduced.

There is as yet an insufficient number of shops, canteens and public service establishments in many cities, workers' townlets and in rural areas. At the same time plans for expanding the trade network are not being fulfilled in a number of republics and regions. Often new apartment houses and entire neighbourhoods are already tenanted but shops, canteens and tailors' shops have not yet been completed. It should become a rule that simultaneously with the completion of work on apartment houses, trade and public service establishments should be opened.

Workers in trade and public catering have been given an important task, that of serving the working people.

The overwhelming majority of them honestly attend to their duties. However, there are as yet many shortcomings in trade. Special attention should be devoted to improving the selection and education of workers in trade. The weakening of attention in selecting trade personnel is used by diverse scoundrels and swindlers. The rooting out of abuse in trade should be facilitated by public control.

A great role in reorganizing the living conditions of Soviet people along communist lines belongs to public catering. It is necessary to expand the network of canteens, cafés, snack bars and home service kitchens. However, the main thing is to show concern that the working people receive tasty food, that they get rapid and efficient service. The more developed our network of public catering, with an adequate quality of cooking as regards the calory content, variety, and the satisfaction of the tastes of consumers, the more will the population use the services of canteens, cafés, restaurants. This would make lighter the domestic burden of women, it would create better possibilities for their participating in labour and public activity, it would improve the sanitary conditions in dwellings.

Trade and public catering are of vital importance for all working people. It is the duty of Party, Soviet, trade union, Komsomol and economic organizations always to know how trading organizations function, give them regular assistance striving to improve the services given to Soviet people.

In the Field of Housing-Communal Economy and Public Services for the Population

Housing construction on a gigantic scale is going on in the Soviet Union. Hundreds of new towns and workers' settlements are appearing.

In the past ten years 634 million sq. metres of housing have been built—1.5 times more than the total floor-space in towns and urban-type communities existing in the Soviet Union in the pre-war year of 1940. In the past ten years water mains have been installed in 364 towns, gas pipe-lines were extended to 820 towns, the number of tailors' and dress-makers' shops, laundries and other enterprises of communal and domestic services has grown more than twofold.

The total volume of the basic funds of the housing-communal economy comprises over 130,000 million roubles, or approximately one-third of the total assets of the basic funds of the national economy of the country.

More than 2 million factory and office workers are employed in the housing-communal sphere of economy. There are big disproportions in the remuneration of those engaged in the housing-communal sphere. Their wage and salary rates at present are below those fixed for workers of some qualifications engaged in other branches of national economy.

An increase is envisaged in the salaries and wages of the workers engaged in the housing communal sphere and in the public services, the anomalies in their remuneration are to be eliminated. The wages and salaries of these workers are to be increased by 15 per cent on the average; by 11 per cent in the gas services, by 24 per cent in the water supplying and sewage services and by more than one-third in hotels.

The rates of pay for various posts are made subject to the volume, the complexity and the quality of the work required. The issuing of bonuses to workers is also envisaged for improving technical and economic indices, enhancing profitability, ensuring the high quality of services and for broadening the services extended to the population. It is planned to spend more than 200 million roubles per annum additionally on wage increases for workers engaged in the housing communal economy.

The workers engaged in communal services face very important objectives. It is our desire to make the life of Soviet people still better, to create the conditions for the working people to devote more time to rest, education, cultural recreation, sports. It is necessary to treasure the time of the working people, things have to be arranged so that they do not squander it on waiting in the queues at barber shops, in the public services shops, at bath houses, etc. It is therefore necessary to broaden the housing communal services both in town and countryside, to improve the standards and the level of these services.

The network of public service establishments is inadequately developed in a number of republics, it is distributed unevenly. There are no public service establishments in many rural areas and the population has to resort to private traders' service. This situation must be remedied.

It seems that we should adopt the policy of creating large-scale specialized public service establishments with a ramified network of receiving centres fitted out with modern equipment. There is a vast potential in this for extending the public services. Attentive and considerate attitude to every Soviet person should be the rule for all the workers of the public service establishments.

Salaries of Officials of Local Bodies

Comrades, all of us are aware of the important role of the workers employed in the Soviets of Working People's Deputies. Citizens apply to the Soviets and their organs for settlement of various important questions every day and they expect to be met with a considerate attitude.

The fulfilment of the diverse tasks before the local organs of power calls for further refinement of their structure, for the development of a flexible and at the same time economical apparatus and for its staffing with qualified personnel.

The Central Committee of the CPSU, the Council of Ministers of the USSR have found it necessary to increase the salaries of the local bodies' officials.

The highest increment to the salaries will go to the medium and lower-paid categories of officials. The salaries of the chairmen of rural and settlement Soviets of Working People's Deputies are also being increased. In keeping with the new terms of labour remuneration the chairmen of the rural and settlement Soviets will be receiving a monthly salary ranging from 60 to 75 roubles and the lowest monthly rate is increased from 45 to 60 roubles. The salaries of the secretaries of the rural and settlement Soviets will be increased from 36—60 roubles to 50—65 roubles per month.

The salaries of the departmental inspectors in public education and public health will be brought to the level of the salaries of teachers and physicians with an identical length of service.

Besides, the wages of the personnel of the procurator's office and judicial bodies, planning and statistical bodies, savings-banks, state insurance, material and technical supply, sales, the system of procurement and in some other organizations will be increased as well.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW LAW — IMPORTANT STATE AFFAIR

Comrade Deputies!

The draft law submitted for your consideration is of great socio-economic and political importance. Twenty-five per cent of all workers and office employees will be switched over to new terms of payment for their work. Their wages and salaries will be increased 21 per cent on the average. In terms of one year, the increment to the salaries of the workers engaged in the public services will comprise 3,300 million roubles.

The draft law provides not for an equalizing increase in the wages and salaries but for a refinement in the system of remuneration of work, a more consistent realization of equal pay for equal work, the removal of ministerial differences in the wages and salaries and further consolidation of the principle of personal material incentive.

The implementation of the law will make it possible to bring considerably closer the level of wages in the public services to the wages of workers engaged in material production. This will be of great importance as a means of providing qualified personnel to, and hence improving the standards of work in the non-productive branches of national economy. For instance, the minimum rate of payment for a physician or a teacher with a higher education is established under the draft law at the level of the minimum salary of an engineer in the light industry, while that of health and pedagogical personnel with secondary education—at the level of pays of workers with secondary technical education in the respective fields.

The adoption of this law will mark an important step in increasing the wages for the low-paid groups of factory and office workers. The minimum monthly rates of wages and salaries for factory and office workers will be increased to 40—45 roubles by the end of 1965. It is understood that with the growth of labour productivity and with the growth of production there will take place a further increase in the minimum wages and a further improvement in the system of remuneration.

While increasing the wages and salaries for the workers engaged in the public services, the Soviet state preserves the retail prices of commodities and the tariffs for services. At the same time it is also envisaged to broaden, in the

future, the free maintenance and education of children, free education and medical services.

Thus, the proposed law is an organic blend of both trends in the improvement of the well-being of the people envisaged in the programme of the CPSU—the increase in the individual remuneration of labour and the development of the social funds of consumption. It provides for a direct increase in the wages and salaries of a considerable part of workers and office employees—those engaged in the public services. This will facilitate the improvement of public service, i. e., in the final count the growth of effectiveness of the social funds of consumption which are freely used by the entire people.

The Central Committee of the CPSU, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the AUCCTU propose to effect the transition to the new system of remuneration of labour in the following manner:

to transfer workers in all branches of the public services to the new rates of wages and salaries in October 1964 in the regions of extreme north and in equivalent areas;

to introduce the new system of wages and salaries for workers in public education and public health in the other areas of the country in November 1964. Thus, the new, increased rates of wages and salaries are to be established for all workers in public education and public health already in the current year;

to increase the wages and salaries for the workers of the housing-communal economy in the third quarter of 1965;

to introduce the new terms of remuneration of labour in trade, public catering, cultural and educational institutions and in the other spheres of services in the 4th quarter of 1965.

The implementation of the planned measures should provide a new stimulus for a profound improvement in the operations of all branches called upon to service the population.

DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTION, HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY — INDISPENSABLE REQUISITE FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE

Comrade Deputies!

The proposed increases in the wages and salaries constitute one of the important current measures envisaged by the

Party for the continuous improvement of the well-being of the Soviet people. The measures which are discussed at the present session had been planned for implementation earlier—in 1962, but at the time, owing to certain circumstances of an external and internal nature their implementation had been temporarily postponed.

The international situation at the time had obliged us to take certain measures to strengthen the defences of the country and this had necessitated greater allocations of funds for the relevant purposes. That measure had met with full approval of the Soviet people. Our efforts directed towards the achievement of an agreement on disarmament thus far had not been successful. Therefore we should keep our powder dry so that the enemy will be aware that it is impossible to attack us without being punished, and that if an attack takes place the enemy will get a crushing blow in retaliation.

Besides, our national economy faced a number of major tasks important for the acceleration of the rates of development of the country's economy and the improvement of national welfare. First of all, the Central Committee of the Party and the Soviet Government had taken decisions to accelerate the development of the chemical industry, in particular, to increase the output of mineral fertilizer, and also to intensify farming production.

Serious measures have been planned and their implementation will lay the ground for a swifter development of economy and improvement of the welfare of the working people engaged both in the field of material production and in the sphere of public service.

It has been already said that with the transition to full-scale communist construction a number of measures had been taken which made it possible to increase during the recent five-year period the average wages in the basic branches of national economy from 13 to 25 per cent. The currently planned measures will lead to an increase in the wages and salaries of those engaged in the sphere of public service by 21 per cent, on the average.

As you see, Comrade Deputies, the policy of increasing wages and salaries in our country is being unswervingly pursued, and first of all for the low-paid categories of factory and office workers so as to close the gap in the remuneration of labour between different categories of workers.

The adopted trend to increase the wages and salaries

is in full conformity with our socialist system. With the growth of economy and publicly owned wealth, with the shrinking of the differences in the standard of qualification of workers and labour productivity the difference in the remuneration of the highly-paid categories and of the comparatively low-paid categories of working people will be steadily shrinking too.

Gradually this difference is to become smaller and smaller. This stems from the Marxist-Leninist teaching, it follows from the objectives set in the Programme of the Party regarding the refinement of the distribution of material values.

However, these measures for the increases in wages and salaries constitute but the initial steps. In order to effect new, more serious steps towards the improvement of the welfare of the people we have outlined ways to facilitate a more rapid construction of the material and technical basis of communism, a more effective management and higher rates of development of our economy, the acceleration of production of an abundance of food products, clothing, footwear and other consumer goods. These ways had been outlined at the December (1963) and February (1964) Plenary Meetings of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

The chemicalization of the national economy and the intensification of farming are going to require great capital investments, but the implementation of these measures will accelerate the construction of the material and technical basis of communism and will create prerequisites for a swifter improvement in the welfare of the people. Thereby the growing purchasing capacity of the population will be ensured by a full supply of commodities, it will become possible to reduce the prices of light industry goods.

The increases in wages and salaries, and particularly if they are carried out on a large scale, stimulate the demand of the population for consumer goods and public services. Hence we should produce more commodities and foodstuffs to enable the working people upon receiving additional financial income to use it and purchase the wanted merchandize.

Industry should increase the production of consumer goods with an assortment meeting the varied tastes and requirements of the people. Much depends on the workers of collective and state farms whose duty is to satisfy in a fuller measure the demand of the people for foodstuffs and the demand of the industry for raw materials.

An important part in the expansion of consumer goods' production belongs to the workers engaged in the swiftly growing chemical industry. They are called upon to provide the industry with variety of high-quality chemical fibre, plastics, and other materials to increase the production of consumer goods and to improve their quality. The output of commodities for cultural and household needs has to be increased at the enterprises of electrical engineering, machine-building and other industries.

I should say here, comrades, that not all executives have adequately understood the importance of continually increasing the output of consumer goods. To bear out this conclusion, I shall mention the following instance. Not long ago the enterprises of the local industry which in the main produced consumer goods, were transferred to the economic councils. Unfortunately, some of the executives of the economic councils in the economic areas and in the union republics instead of improving the technical standard of production at the enterprises which had come under them, instead of arranging specialized production at these enterprises and thereby increasing the output and improving the quality of the produced consumer goods had considerably reduced or suspended altogether the output of these goods. The State Planning Committee and the Economic Council of the USSR whose duty was to ensure the correct utilization of the enterprises of local industry which had been transferred to the councils of national economy had mechanically rubberstamped the alteration of the pattern of their production. The Party organizations had also bypassed this fact.

Assessing the available resources, our industry is in a position to satisfy the requirements of the people in a much better way as regards the supply of high-quality commodities. It is necessary to resolve as soon as possible the problem of a radical improvement in the quality and assortment of goods. It is necessary to draw the most serious attention of the workers in industry, and of all our public to this matter. The workers of trading organizations should learn to determine correctly the demands of the population, its need in goods and to be fully responsible for the orders placed with industry. The trading organizations are obliged to actively influence the enterprises which manufacture consumer goods. The ideal is to arrange correct relationships between the trading organizations and the industrial enterprises.

A possibility has appeared at present to allocate more funds for the development of the production of consumer goods. The time is already past when any goods could be supplied to the shops and the population would purchase them indiscriminately, because there was a shortage of these goods and we had them in a much smaller quantity. The buyers would take anything that could be worn, without paying much attention to the quality, pattern or colour of the merchandize. Strictly speaking, what we had formerly was not trade but, actually, a distribution of commodities not according to ration coupons, but in life as such. The customer had no choice. Suppose he was in need of a pair of trousers; if the shop could not supply him with the trousers of the wanted size he bought whatever size was on sale and he would say: let it be, I'll alter them at home.

The situation has changed. Our industry is manufacturing more consumer goods, and with the advancement of the material and cultural standards of the population the people are beginning to be more exacting in relation to the offered goods, they are beginning to examine the goods more closely, to choose those goods which are better. This is not a whim or fault finding, it is a natural thing. The working people wish to buy the type of footwear or clothes which is of a modern style, a pretty colour, corresponding to the season of the year and is in fashion. This is a fine phenomenon.

At present we have a good deal of fine quality goods but owing to the unsatisfactory colour, pattern or the style these goods do not sell. Pretty good raw and auxiliary materials have been used in the manufacture of these goods, but owing to bad quality of the work the goods manufactured from these raw materials are not sold. At present the trading network has 2,500,000,000 roubles worth of unsold goods in excess of the established norms.

It is necessary to enhance the responsibility of the enterprises for the quality of the produced goods, a firm regulation has to be introduced under which the customer could make a claim against the bad quality of the purchased commodity. The factory which produced the commodities, rather than the trading establishment should be held responsible for the quality of the goods.

The losses incurred owing to the fact that the goods produced are not sold should be compensated by the enterprise which had supplied the goods. The fulfilment of a programme by enterprises should be judged not

only by the gross volume of goods produced but also by the nomenclature, with consideration for the popularity of certain goods, that is with consideration for the demand on certain goods.

It seems that the time is ripe to alter the system of planning and evaluation of the work of enterprises which are producing consumer goods. The production of these goods should be in fact founded on the orders of trading organizations. In this case both the workers in industry and the workers in trade would bear a greater responsibility to the people.

The State Planning Committee of the USSR working jointly with the Councils of Ministers of the Union Republics and the economic councils should work out a system of relations between the factories and plants on the one hand, and the trading organizations on the other, to meet more fully the requirements of the population regarding consumer goods. The plants and factories which produce consumer goods should receive orders from shops and the latter are obliged to consider the requirements of the population and place orders for commodities in keeping with the demand. If a trading organization had placed an order for goods of a definite pattern, colour and size and these goods do not sell, then it is the trading organizations which had placed the order for the manufacture of those products, not the factory that should be held responsible for it. In this case the trading organizations should cover the material losses, the responsibility is placed upon the ordering organization, not upon the organization which fulfilled the order.

This is not a simple task, but a very necessary one. If we go on doing things in the organization of production of consumer goods and trade the way we have been doing so far, the volume of goods which are not in demand will continue to grow and the state will bear great losses. This should not be allowed to take place.

Comrades, the successes in the implementation of the programme of our Party for the creation of the material and technical basis of communism adopted by the 22nd Congress are indubitable.

It is understood that we should not be carried away by successes or rest content with the achievements made. We, all of us, would like to achieve even greater results, but you are well aware that our mere desire is not everything. The improvement in the life and the well-being of the Soviet

people, the growth of culture in the country will make greater progress if the rate of the growth of economy and of labour productivity is higher.

Our state is using the most equitable measure of distribution of material values—distribution according to work done. However, every person should be aware that it is not merely the question of the method of distribution. Before beginning to distribute one has to have something to distribute.

Every economic reform, every new step towards the communist principle of distribution may be implemented only when necessary material prerequisites have been created.

The main task of the national economy is to continually enhance labour productivity and to manufacture more and more products per working person. This may be achieved only on the basis of a continual technical advance in all branches of national economy, chemicalization, the improvement of the quality and reliability of machines, on the basis of modernization of equipment, complex mechanization and automation of production, the improvement in the cultural and technical standards of all working people.

The acceleration of the rates of economic development, the growth of labour productivity depend in a great measure on the acceleration of the rates of capital construction. We, all of us, are aware that in order to create a powerful economic foundation of communism it is necessary to build plants, factories, electric stations, mines, and other enterprises. The better we utilize the funds allocated for these purposes, the sooner we use them up, the faster will be our advance. Things have to be arranged in such a way that new capacities should be put into operation in a brief period of time, that investments spend less time in non-productive circulation, that funds invested in construction give returns at an early date in the form of finished products for the national economy.

It has to be said, Comrade Deputies, that the programme of capital construction in a number of industries, in many economic areas and republics is being unsatisfactorily fulfilled.

Not long ago the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR addressed a letter to all Party, Soviet, economic, trade union and Komsomol organizations, to all construction workers, assembly workers and the workers in industry and transport about the tasks related

to the fulfilment of the plan of capital construction in 1964—1965.

I would like to urge you, Comrade Deputies, executives of Soviet, economic, trade union organizations, all those who are immediately responsible for capital construction, to make, once again, a close study of the progress of construction on the spot and to take all the measures necessary to fulfil the plans of capital construction by the target dates.

Particular attention should be paid to these questions by Party organizations. The industrial regional Party committees, the city Party Committees, the Party organizations at construction sites should work with greater persistence and with full responsibility for the fulfilment of the plans covering every project, put the capacities of new enterprises into operation and master them as early as possible. It is a matter of honour for Communists, Komsomol members, of all people upon whose work the fulfilment of construction plans depends to do all they can for the realization of the objectives set by the Party and the government. What is needed is not to look for reasons to justify the failure to fulfil the plan, but to overcome obstacles and ensure the fulfilment of the capital construction.

May I express confidence that building workers will successfully cope with the great tasks set them by our Party and government.

We are putting into operation a large number of new enterprises, shops and production units every year. Unfortunately, it takes a long time before the production facilities at many of these enterprises are operated at full capacity. According to available data big quantities of equipment remain idle or are not being used to full capacity. The Supreme Council of the National Economy of the USSR, working jointly with other organizations, should take measures to speed up full capacity operation of the production facilities and a better utilization of the equipment. The local Party and economic bodies should concern themselves with this important matter.

There are still big reserves at factories, plants, mines, construction sites, collective farms and state farms which should be put into operation. It is necessary to continue to improve the organization of production, to propagate and introduce in production everything that is advanced and progressive, to strengthen cost accounting, and achieve the utmost effectiveness of production, to combat losses of work

time, to save materials, fuel, electric power, to treasure every kopeck of the people.

Today, we are discussing the increase in wages for workers in public education, health services, trade, public catering, and public services. At the same time we should demand that these workers improve the efficiency of their labour, spend state funds sparingly, keep account of the people's money. It would be wrong to think that since material values are not created in some of these branches, the laws of thrifty and economical management are inapplicable there.

Surely, one could easily effect a saving in these branches by just cutting the allocations for them. However, we are not discussing this type of saving. The socialist state is increasing allocations for public education, culture, for medical services every year and in considerable proportions. What we have in mind is a more effective utilization of the increasing allocations, that every people's kopeck be used rationally for the benefit of the Soviet people.

The increase in wages of the workers engaged in the branches serving the population, makes for the requirements of strengthening of the principle of material incentive in the development of production.

We are also aware of the tremendous importance of moral aspects in the productive activity of people. However, we proceed from the understanding that the moral factors should be combined with the material factors, that they should be strengthened by the material encouragement for good work.

The results of our economic activity are largely determined by the standards of management of economy as a whole, of enterprises and construction sites, state farms and collective farms.

In the past few years the Central Committee of the Party and the government, as is known, have devoted much attention to the reorganization of the system of management in industry, construction and agriculture. The steps that have been taken are fully justified. However, it would be wrong to consider that we have done everything in this respect. Vladimir Ilyich Lenin instructed us to explore, to test in practice the new and the more effective forms, methods, and means of management of economy and to correlate them with the new conditions. Lenin indicated that one should not be afraid of discarding everything that has be-

come outmoded and is a handicap to progress; that whatever had been started should not be dropped off if immediate success had not been achieved, but it should be done again and it should be brought to completion in all details until the desired results were attained.

When summarizing the practical experience it is necessary to continue to improve the system of management of economy, to perfect the functioning of the administrative-managerial machinery, to see that it is not complicated, that it is qualified, that it functions efficiently without red tape and bureaucracy, that it be economical.

Much remains to be done in the sphere of a better organization of labour.

We are sure that if we exert every effort and set all the organizational and economic levers in action, we shall carry out successfully all the tasks facing us.

* * *

Comrade Deputies,

Allow me to diverge somewhat from the subject of my report and to say a few words about the grief that has struck our communist movement.

Death has torn out of our ranks an outstanding fighter for the cause of the working class, for the triumph of peace and socialism—our dear Maurice Thorez.

Those present here know Comrade Thorez well. Maurice Thorez was a remarkable son of the French working class. A miner himself, the son and grandson of a miner, he embodied the militant revolutionary traditions of the French working class movement and held aloft the banner of communism.

He possessed the remarkable qualities of a worker, a miner—staunchness in the struggle for the cause of the revolution, Leninist devotion to principle, unbending will in the struggle, faith in the victory of the ideals of communism.

Myself, I have taken the news of Comrade Thorez' death especially hard. We had been great friends. We fought for our common cause of communism through decades. On more than one occasion we recalled, in our friendly talks, the years when we worked in mines, the glorious revolutionary deeds of the working class of our countries. We discussed many burning problems of the international communist and working class movement and we always achieved complete mutual understanding and saw eye to eye on all the

problems, big and small, involved in the policies and practices of our fraternal parties.

We were absolutely sure of the need for further strengthening the friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and France, and regarded this as an important guarantee for strengthening peace and security of the peoples of Europe and universal peace.

The Soviet Communists, like the Communists of France, are firmly convinced that all the difficulties standing in the way of our communist and liberation movement will be successfully overcome and communism will score ever new victories.

As befits a real representative of our rising and developing movement Maurice Thorez was an optimist confident in the triumph of our cause. We shall exert even greater effort for the victory of the working class, for the victory of the ideals of communism.

The glorious French Communist Party, for the tempering of which Comrade Maurice Thorez did so much, will confidently advance along the path it followed for many years together with and under the leadership of Maurice Thorez. Allow me on your behalf to express to our French friends sincere condolences in connection with the heavy loss they have suffered and to assure them of our unfailing friendship and fraternity in the struggle for the common cause.

The cause for which Maurice Thorez fought is living and developing, the future belongs to it and it will triumph. The ideas of Marxism-Leninism are immortal, and the future belongs to them!

* * *

Comrade Deputies, I am completing my report. Under the conditions of socialism, work in any sphere of national economy and culture is creative and constructive. Our successes in every field of communist construction depend on honest, conscientious and highly productive work of every Soviet citizen. The entire wealth of the Soviet state, all we are proud of and all that arouses the admiration of the working people of the world—all this has been created by Soviet people through their heroic, devoted work.

Comrades, behold how far we have advanced, how highly our country has been elevated by the creative work of the Soviet people. Indeed, what a tremendous distance has been covered from the Russian barges on the Volga, once

extolled in songs, to the most modern machines, from the wooden plough to the miraculous spaceships! Today, our country is facing such sweeping horizons, it has accumulated such powerful strength that it is capable of still greater achievements.

Our objectives are clear, they are set in the programme of our Party. We have everything necessary to achieve these objectives. The task now is to better organize labour, to achieve a fuller utilization of all reserves and potentialities of socialist economy.

The Communist Party, the Soviet people are fighting to create an abundance of material and spiritual values in our country. And we believe confidently that we shall create this abundance. We shall have communist abundance. However, it shall be achieved only on the basis of higher productivity of labour. This is the key which shall open for us the door to communist society. Communism may be built by work, work and nothing but work of millions upon millions of industrial workers, collective farmers, engineers and technicians, scientists, workers in public education and public health, workers in culture, all workers of manual and mental labour.

The more useful work and knowledge every Soviet citizen contributes to society, the more productive his work is, the greater the opportunities the state has for further improving the life of the people.

All our people will welcome with profound satisfaction the decisions of the Supreme Soviet. There can be no doubt that all workers, collective farmers, intellectuals, by their devoted work will enhance the might of the Soviet state, will bring closer the triumph of the ideals of communism. By implementing the programme of communist construction we shall fulfil our lofty international duty to the working class, to the working people of the world!

Long live communism!

(Khrushchov's speech was punctuated by stormy prolonged applause.)