QUALITY CAN BE CONTROLLED

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This article summarizes the shortcomings of Soviet industries putting out inferior production goods with an emphasis in industry’s reporting to the "Saratov system" for better quality control. Specific examples of inferior goods are cited with an emphasis on the benefit to the consumer.
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Many economical organizations, institutions and outstanding scientists work on the improvement of a planning system in industry. But so far, not even one of the improvements has led to the point that the inherent parts of the state plan have become quantitative indices of the production quality. We still have no control system for the quality level of various objects.

An increase in quality of production, and first of all the obtainment of optimum reliability and long service life, grew into a larger a larger general state problem. N. S. Khrushchev mentioned in his report at the recent session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR: "It is necessary within the shortest time to solve the problem of sharply increasing the quality and assortment of goods. For this purpose it is necessary to attract the most serious attention of industrial workers, of our entire society."

Yes, it is namely so: in the shortest time! Because each slowing down day means large losses on the scale of national economy. A reduction in reliability and in service life of production, as is known, is equivalent to quantitative reduction in output and reduction in
effectiveness of the entire industry. And vice versa: The extension service life of goods may continually serve side by side as the seat and most suitable way to raise this effectiveness. For example, doubling the running time of auto tires is equivalent to a ntitative doubling of their manufacture, and this is attained by process of considerably less losses.

In October 1963 the newspaper "Izvestiya" told about the Saratov system of defectless manufacture of goods. Since then, more than three usand representatives of various economical regions visited Saratov Pensa institutions, and have personally become convinced about the antages of this system. Nonetheless, today not only hundreds, but nsands and tens of thousands of industries have adopted this gressive method.

It should be clear to everyone, that the effectiveness of the atov system is higher the broader the sphere of its action. It will w not in arithmetical, but faster in geometrical progression. In ern industry, the level of specialization is high. An industry manufacture reliable goods, although additional parts furnished at ter date on the completion of these goods delivered by a supplier be faulty. A simple example — a radio receiver failing because of tubes, which the radio plant itself has not manufactured. To user rolls over links of affiliated bonds leads to a growing lance of losses. The introduction of the Saratov system therefore,oves the production quality not only of the given industries, but of the one with which it is connected by cooperated deliveries.

And so, the system directing industrial and construction ectives into output of good production, is at our disposal.

one of these is not enough. An organizational and control system
is needed to follow the level of industrial quality of production on general state scale. We do not want to propose for this purpose, the creation of any new committees. The state committee necessary for this case is already available. They must be forced only to occupy themselves with it. We have in mind the GOSPKAN of the USSR and the Gos Committee of Standards and of Production Qualities in the USSR and add to it laws and possibilities, analogous to laws of the Gosplan of the USSR, in problems of planning and supervision over the quality of production.

Today the laws and possibilities of the Committee of Standards, its scientific-research institutions and control-checking labs are limited, and more exactly, reduced in comparison with these greater state problems which they should solve. The leaders of the committees truly consider it necessary, for example, that the committee should undertake the assurance of all interested organizations to provide them with standard reference data of physical constants and physico-chemical properties of initial materials, raw materials and complete goods. After improving the nonunderstandable causes of 1934 in our country, we discontinued the publication of official test books on initial materials and raw materials. The absence of such a state system leads to the point that planners and developers have to lose much time, forces and means, for the search of the necessary text books without which they cannot create samples of new technology. Quite often, the planner is forced to use by far unreliable information, which comes very expensive for the state.

We cannot just be satisfied with the attention and the problem of reliability services. This year the work of thousands of such services created at industrial undertakings, in construction bureaus and scientific research institutions, are not at all coordinated.
y solve one and the same problem, they open the unopened ones.

is no wonder, that the activity of these important subdivisions
far from being or becoming effective, and sometimes they turn
practice, into still another switchman who can be blamed for low
lity an inreliability of the manufactured objects.

Branch state committees do not pay the proper attention to
iability service. Also, the State Committee on Radioelectronics
the USSR, where such services were created much earlier than
er committees; and five years had already passed when they were
ing ready to listen at the Converence of the Collegium the
blem about the experience in their work. That is why it is advis-
e to place on the new State Committee of Standards and Product
lity of the USSR, a methodical leadership of reliability services
development of general theoretical and methodical methods of
uating and controlling the quality and exploitational reliability
goods.

It appears to us also advisable, that during the conference of
State Committee of Standards and Production Quality of the USSR
uld be created a single interbranch scientific Soviet on reliability
quality control problems. Then we would do away with the necessity
many other scientific Soviets, in sections, commissions and general
mittees, which are not being created just every day, and work by
principle "swan, crayfish and pickerel."

Such a scientific Soviet will be effective, if it will stay closely
icted with scientific research institutions, where it is possible
develop theoretical problems and problems of practical reliability
quality and reliability control methods. And such possibilities
in the system of the state committee of standards. But all this
urse, requires development and considerably greater attention.
A more important economical problem is included in the search of quality and reliability indices, and then in the introduction of same into the state planning system. On this account exist individual more or less reasonable undertakings, but we still have no final system. It is more odd, that the single subject of determining the economical effectiveness, attained by increasing the reliability and long service live of machines, was found to be in order of economics excluded from the plan of scientific research operations of the economics department of the Academy of Sciences USSR. Investigations of these problems are carried out now only by general forces.

We cannot disagree with Academician A. I. Berg, when he says that optimum reliability and long service life are not given as a gift, and they are not attained without losses and other quality characteristics of goods. These losses should be not only technical, but also economically based. Just as excessive losses of materials to increase the strength of goods are not justified, so are the requirements for reliability which should not be over estimated. But at present time, we have still not attained such a position, when we can fear over estimation of reliability requirements.

For a more authentic evaluation of the reliability of manufactured goods industries should have designated testing bases well. Of enormous value is the development and broad application of accelerated testing methods.

We deeply believe in thorough possibility of developing such a state control system of the production quality level, manufactured by our socialistic industry, with which no capitalistic system quality level, manufactured by our socialistic industry, with which no capitalistic system can compare, based on competition and not on the interests of the user. But it will be possible to solve only in
conditions when the quality characteristic of production for which the manufacturer will carry a no lesser responsibility than for quantitative characteristics, and will be interested in their constant increase.