At all the stages of the economic development of our country the Party and the Government have devoted special attention to standardization as one of the effective means of speeding up technical progress, improving the quality of production and saving material resources.

Following the XXII Congress of our Party, which adopted the program for providing the material and technical basis of communism, the role of standardization has increased still further. The pattern of planned socialist economy is such that the part played by standardization, as the most important means in the hands of the State for solving basic problems of communist construction, will increase progressively by the way of technical improvement and production organization.

N. S. Khrushchev's speech at the All-Union Conference of industrial workers, in which he sharply criticized the state of standardization and work of the Committee of Standards, has found a wide response among many industrial and scientific workers.

Such attention paid to standardization is legitimate. Scientific discoveries, development of new branches of industry, more complex machinery, equipment, and instruments, adoption of new materials in production and wide intertrade cooperation present increasingly stringent requirements for the quality, reliability and durability of products, for improved interchangeability, and a speedier realignment of production and mobility in adopting new techniques.

A clear example of the part played by standardization in solving the most important economic problems consists of the experience gained in the building of factories and dwellings in our country. It was only on the basis of a widely applied standardization and unitization of buildings and equipment that it became possible in a short time to adopt in the building industry progressive industrial construction methods, thus raising sharply labor productivity on building sites.

Similar, if not greater, possibilities are inherent in standardization and unitization in other branches of industry, and in the first place, in mechanical engineering.

Further development of standardization has been widely discussed by standardization experts in State committees, basic organizations, standardization departments of Sovnarkhozes (Councils of National Economy), outstanding scientists, industrial experts and representatives from Union Republics.

All this made it possible to find the basic deficiencies and plan the main trends of development and priority tasks for a radical changing of the role and state of standardization in solving the most important economic problems.

Side by side with a high coverage by the standards of certain types of production (especially certain raw materials and goods) the standardization of the most important types of production is badly lagging, especially in the new, rapidly-developing branches of technology.

State standards in many instances do not produce the required effect on the quality of production, do not reflect the modern state of science and technology; they are compiled piecemeal and their assimilation by our national economy drags out over several years.
In certain instances 5-6 years elapse between the beginning of a standard's compilation and its adoption, so that at the time of its adoption the characteristics specified by it no longer correspond to the requirements of industry. Thus, for instance, the draft standard for heat-treated armature steel compiled in 1959 was approved in 1964 and will be adopted only in 1965.

The poor condition of standardization and normalization in several branches of mechanical engineering and instrument-making has led to a completely unjustifiable multiplicity of designs and a multitude of sizes.

Every planning and design organization, in developing machines for the same purpose with similar operating characteristics uses components, units, and assemblies which are different in design, thus making their specialized production impossible to organize. For instance, in the automobile industry standards do not exist for such units and assemblies as chassis, front and rear axles, and gear boxes.

Every plant in the automobile and tractor industries produces its own design for machines of the same size which serve the same purpose.

The scientific foundations for standardization are unsatisfactory. Work is not proceeding on the theory of standardization, scientific classification, unified terminology and coding of production, standardization of scientific and technical data and physical constants; work is not being organized for providing our economy with reference standard substances and materials.

At present the State Committee faces the task of radically improving its work in standardization, and aiming at the solution of the following principal problems:

raising the requirements for the quality, reliability and durability of articles;

an extensive unification of machines, equipment and instruments, their units and components, and the provision of conditions for the development of specialized production;

ensuring that the development of the scientific foundations of standardization and precision measurements technology is in advance of production;

establishing a unified system of technical documentation.

The rising interest in standardization in many countries should be noted. In socialist countries and technically advanced capitalist countries such as the USA, Britain, France, Japan et al., several state measures have been adopted for raising the part played by standardization, in the first instance, in improving the quality of production.

In the Soviet Union the State Standards are the most important means in the hands of the State for solving the problems of communist construction.

On the basis of this consideration, the Committee of Standards, together with State Committees in various industries, the Sovmarkhozes (Councils of National Economy), and in cooperation with engineers and technicians, is carrying out important work in revising and checking State Standards for the most important types of products. As the result of this work it is intended to provide the Standards with requirements which would ensure production of a quality not lower than the best articles made abroad with respect to their reliability, precision, economy, appearance, and convenient use.

A compulsory checking of all operating State Standards every three years with the replacement of all the obsolete ones will be introduced in 1965.

Serious attention should be paid to measures for adopting Standards and establishing an effective State supervision of their implementation. It is necessary to raise substantially the role and importance of State Committees in various industries, and raise the responsibility of the Sovmarkhozes and factory administrations in this respect. A number of State Committees have raised the question of the necessity for adopting in our country a single method for the acceptance and testing of sample products; a method which would eliminate the possibility of producing articles below the existing technological level and Standard specifications.

Such a method will be developed by the Committee of Standards this year. Side by side with the above, there is also the problem of substantially strengthening the role of State Inspection Laboratories. At present the 280 laboratories of the Committee which are located in all the large industrial centers of our country, are engaged mainly with the inspection of measuring equipment. Time is ripe for extending considerably their functions and converting