The Third All-Union Conference on State Universities, which was organized by the All-Union Central Trade Union Council, the Central Council of State Universities of the USSR, and the Board of the All-Union Society "Znanie," was held in Moscow in Dec. 1976. The conference was opened by the chairman of the Central Council of the State Universities of the USSR, Academician I. I. Artobolevskii. He reported that up to the present time, the number of state universities had increased to 38,000, and the number of students exceeded 10,000,000. Under contemporary conditions, where the volume of required knowledge has increased sharply and rapidly, it is necessary to indoctrinate the workers in all branches of the national economy with the desire and skill to supplement their knowledge independently and to become oriented in the mainstream of political, economic, and technical information.

The president of the Academy of Pedagogic Sciences of the USSR, Doctor of Biological Sciences V. N. Stoletov stressed in his paper that there will be more state universities in the future. As our nation progresses toward communism, the role of the state universities as a very massive form of self-education of the working class will invariably increase. The task of the middle school is to instruct students in all ways of life. The more successful this is, the more effective the operation of the state universities, and the more reliable the assistance they render in retraining the worker collectives.

A paper by a substitute for the chairman of the Central Council of State Universities of the USSR, Doctor of Technical Sciences A. P. Vladislavlev, was devoted to the problems of the future development and improvement in the activity of the state universities. It was related that the state universities have obtained widespread recognition. The councils on the state universities in many ministries and departments are performing their work successfully. The majority of students come to the state universities to enhance their qualifications. Providing knowledge, the state universities should form the student's concept of world affairs.

The secretary of the All-Union Central Trade Union Council and substitute for the chairman of the Central Council of State Universities of the USSR, L. A. Zemlyannikova, told of the work of trade unions in increasing the role of the state universities in developing the productive and social activity of the workers. The scientific and technical societies and the All-Union Inventors and Rationalizers Society have assumed an increasing share of the activity of the state universities. They have done much to ensure that this very large-scale form of self-education of the workers is of superior quality and more effective. The active application of knowledge obtained by the students in their everyday work depends on the improvement in the quality of their education.

In the national universities, greater attention is now being focused on the study of economic problems. Little study is devoted, however, to such an important theme as "Work and technical progress." Lecturers who speak on this subject should be as specific as possible and have a good working knowledge of industry. It is necessary to utilize scientific-technical films more widely in the operation of the state universities and to relate the experience gained by industrial leaders. It is necessary to increase the number of instructors in the state universities.

The director of the division of propaganda and agitation of the Central Committee of the All-Union Lenin Young Communist League, V. P. Gorchakov, reported on the activity of Young Communist League organizations concerned with increasing the role of state universities in patriotic and moral training, and in the professional orientation of young people.
Particularly extensive work in this direction has been performed in the Armenian SSR. The speaker also stressed the overwhelming role of instructors in the job training of young people.

The conference delegates listened with great interest to a paper prepared by the first substitute for the Minister of Justice of the USSR, substitute for the chairman of the Central Council of State Universities of the USSR, A. Ya. Sukhareva, concerning the role of the state universities in developing the capable judgment of the Soviet people. Very strict attention must be paid to the compilation of educational programs in the state universities. They should embrace the most essential political problems of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet government.

Member-corporrespondent of the Academy of Pedagogic Sciences of the USSR, A. V. Darinskii, spoke of an improvement in the methodology of the educational-tutoring process in the state universities. Instructors should carefully select the material for the pursuits and the lectures should be interesting and instill in the students a creative approach to useable data.

The conference was broken down into four sections: "State universities and the shaping of the Marxist-Leninist outlook and the fulfillment of the interests and spiritual requirements of the Soviet people," "State universities and the training of worker collectives of massive common professions," "The participation of the state universities in increasing the professional qualifications of worker collectives," and "Problems associated with the improvement of the organization and leadership of the system of state universities." The proceedings of these sections were headed, respectively, by the first substitute for the Minister of Justice of the USSR, substitute for the chairman of the Central Council of National Universities of the USSR, A. Ya. Sukharev, candidate of historical sciences V. Ya. Yolkman', substitute for the Minister of Geology of the USSR, member of the presidium of the central Council of State Universities of the USSR, A. A. Ryasna, and substitute for the chairman of the Central Council of State Universities, Doctor of Technical Sciences, A. P. Vladislavlev.

Appearing at the meeting of the first section, Doctor of Philosophical Sciences V. K. Skatershchikov stressed that the state universities are seriously engaged in the aesthetic training of the workers. He considers that the problems associated with aesthetic training should be the subject of study not only in liberal-arts colleges, but also in colleges of any profile. All participants in the proceedings of this section were greatly interested in familiarizing themselves with experience gained in conducting sociological studies concerning the development of workers interests for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of activities undertaken in the state universities; this was reported by Candidate of Pedagogic Sciences T. N. Levashov. Of interest were the appearances of the Pro-vice-chancellor of the state liberal-arts university affiliated with the Yablochkin Provisional Technical Society, V. Z. Radomyshlenskii, Candidate of Philosophical Sciences L. I. Sokolova, Candidate of Pedagogic Sciences P. V. Gornostaev and others.

At the meetings of the second section, experience gained in the operation of the state universities concerning the training of lecturers and the improvement of their lecturing skill was brought to light in appearances by Candidate of Historical Sciences Z. V. Balabaeva, Candidate of Pedagogic Sciences L. S. Stepanaitene, and Candidate of Philosophical Sciences G. V. Berginer. Honorary cultural laborer of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, V. A. Vakhonin and Candidate of Historical Sciences A. P. Raskosnyi shared their experience in training employee collectives of public correspondents in the Moscow State University of Newspaper Workers-Correspondents, and with the Donets Branch of the State University of Agricultural Workers.

In meetings of the third section, the increasing role of the state universities in matters of increasing the qualifications of specialists was stressed in personal appearances by the substitute for the Minister of the Food Industry of the USSR, member of the Central Council of State Universities of the USSR, T. M. Selivanov. The first substitute chairman of the All-Union Council of Scientific-Technical Societies, member of the presidium of the Central Council of State Universities of the USSR, N. N. Gritsenko, came forward with an interesting communication on the work of organizations of the scientific and technical society for enhancing the qualifications of specialists in the state universities. He proposed