

June 30, 1972

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Citation:

"Kim Il Sung, 'Let Us Introduce Innovations in Heating'", June 30, 1972, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Kim Il Sung Works, vol. 27 (Pyongyang: Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1986). <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/134864>

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

LET US INTRODUCE INNOVATIONS IN HEATING

Speech Delivered at the National Meeting
of Heating Workers
June 30, 1972

In the name of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Government of the Republic and all the Korean people, I should like first to offer warm congratulations to the first meeting of heating workers ever held in our country, and express thanks to you comrades and all your colleagues across the nation for achieving great successes in this work.

In the past, individual heating workers have made speeches on heating problems at meetings of other branches of industry. But this is the first time that heating workers are having a meeting of their own. It seems somewhat belated to hold this meeting today when more than 20 years have passed since the founding of the Republic. However, I think it is very good for the boilermen from all parts of the country to have gathered here for serious discussion on how to improve heating.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I should like to mention some problems concerning the improvement of the supply of heat.

At present, we can hardly say that our work in this sphere as a whole is up to the mark. Some factories are not able to normalize their production because of the shortage of steam power and the fact that they cannot attain the desired temperatures. Some time ago I visited Hyesan, where I found that the kraft paper mill could not operate normally because of the shortage of coal and the flax textile mill was running below

capacity because it was not supplied with enough steam power.

In recent years, the number of boilers and other heating equipment has greatly increased in our country as a result of the construction of large thermal power stations and the rapid development of industry. This has caused a sharp increase in the demand for coal. At the same time, our coal production has also increased very rapidly. Compared with the increase of heating equipment, coal production is by no means small. However, the nation's coal situation is still strained, and complaints are heard everywhere about the shortage of coal. The main reason is that heat is not regulated properly and coal is wasted. According to the data submitted by the Department of Heavy Industry of the Party Central Committee, some three million tons of coal are wasted every year, but in my opinion, the real figure may be much higher.

Who, then, is to blame for this shortcoming which wastes so much coal and hinders production?

The greatest responsibility rests with the leading officials of Party, state and economic bodies and the managerial staff of factories and enterprises, who do not pay particular attention to this problem and neglect their work with the boilermen.

Although they emphasize the importance of heating, the economic departments of the Party Central Committee and the Cabinet have not given it due consideration. They have never held a consultative meeting to discuss problems concerning proper political and ideological work amongst the heating workers, or the technological problems of improving their work.

Because the Party Central Committee and the Cabinet have failed to give proper guidance in this matter, ministries, administrative bureaus and other economic bodies, local Party and government bodies and factories and enterprises are also quite indifferent to this problem. While complaining that production does not go well because of the shortage of heat, ministers, the heads of administrative bureaus, the managers and Party secretaries of factories do not visit the boiler rooms and try to find out why the supply of heat is insufficient, whether sufficient coal is supplied, whether the boilermen are proficient enough, how the boilers are

functioning and whether the boilers and other heating equipment are repaired in good time.

Let me give you an example.

Last winter the temperature in the lecture-rooms of Kim Il Sung University, our major cadre-training centre, dropped so low that the students found it very hard to study. But none of the administrative staff of the university or the Party secretary paid any attention to this or took steps to remedy the situation. The Cabinet investigated the case and discovered that though there was a mountain of coal, the students were shivering with cold in their lecture-rooms because the boilers were not heated properly. Since the senior officials of Kim Il Sung University which trains state administrators, educators, and scientists are utterly indifferent to the problem of heating, we can hardly expect the students to pay attention to this when they graduate from the university.

The Party Central Committee discussed the question of improving heating at its plenary meeting and even adopted a decision on the question which it sent to the lower units. Following this, the senior officials of Party, state and economic bodies and enterprises made a fuss over removing fur from the boiler tubes and devising methods to prevent furring, but a few months later all this was utterly neglected.

The boilermen should also feel guilty about the poor supply of heat. There are hard workers amongst them, but quite a few of them have no sense of responsibility, working in a slipshod manner. The workers in other branches of industry are all making technical innovations, but those who are engaged in the supply of heating are not enthusiastic enough to mechanize and automate their work and increase combustion rates through technical innovations and they do not care about the loss of precious heat caused by incorrect lagging. Moreover, they store and burn coal carelessly, thus wasting a great deal of it. Consequently, though a great deal of coal is consumed, heat is still insufficient and this hinders production.

At present the boilermen have no pride in their responsibilities and work in a slipshod manner. This is largely because the public regard their work as a menial job.

LET US INTRODUCE INNOVATIONS IN HEATING

This is in no way a menial job. With electricity, heat is a major source of power which keeps modern industry going. We could say that production begins with heating. Heating is most important in production. So the senior personnel should pay primary attention to this work. In the past, however, the senior officials of Party, state and economic bodies at all levels and the management of enterprises have made light of the supply of heat and neglected work with boilermen. As a result, this is socially regarded as the meanest job, and girls are said to be reluctant to marry heating workers. So they have fallen into a habit of muddling along from day to day, with no pride or sense of honour. In a certain factory no one wants to work as a boilerman, so the workers have to take turns at firing the boilers. As long as things stand like this, it is impossible to raise the boilermen's technical and skill level or ensure the proper supply of heat.

Following this meeting, we must determinedly correct the incorrect view which slights such work. From now on, meetings of heating workers must be held annually at the capital and in the provinces to exchange valuable experience. During warm periods when boilermen have little or no work at all, political and technical studies should be widely organized so as to raise their level of ideological consciousness and technical skills.

At the same time, it is important for the boilermen themselves to take pride in their work and increase their sense of responsibility.

As we always say, everything is decided by men, by the working class. It is the working class that transforms nature and creates material wealth; it is also the working class that destroys the old social system and creates a new one and a new life. The working class is the creator, the master of a new world.

Once the section of the working class engaged in heating works hard with a strong consciousness that they are the masters of society and with a high sense of responsibility based on the understanding that the success of production depends on them, a radical change will take place in this sphere of work. If they tackle technical innovations, they will put them into practice in their work, and if they take good care of boilers and raise their combustion rate, production will not be hindered because of a lack of heat, and more coal will be saved. It all depends on the ideological preparedness

of the working class. Once the working class is resolved, nothing is impossible.

With that strong consciousness that they are the masters of the country, heating workers should devote all their wisdom and energy to the noble struggle to further consolidate our socialist system, strengthen the material and technological foundations of socialism and improve the living conditions of the people. And they must take care that following this meeting, production is no longer affected by a shortage of heat or steam. This is the first point I want to stress today.

Next, I should like to speak about a number of measures for improving our heating service.

First, boilers must be standardized and modernized to suit our country's specific conditions.

We have various types of boilers because we could not produce many boilers ourselves and had to import them. Our country still has quite a few old-fashioned boilers which have been in service from the days of Japanese imperialist rule. Foreign boilers have a low combustion rate and waste a lot of fuel because they are unsuitable for our fuel. Moreover, the variety of boilers presents us with a number of disadvantages. We have problems in producing spare parts for them and cannot repair them properly.

In order to eliminate these disadvantages, we must standardize and modernize boilers in conformity with our country's present conditions. However, we cannot replace all the existing boilers immediately. We must develop our own boiler-making industry and gradually replace foreign-made boilers with our own, domestic standardized boilers.

While standardizing and modernizing boilers to fit in with our specific conditions, they should be designed to consume the fuel produced in the localities where they will be used.

For example, in the areas north of Kaegogae Pass, boilers should be made to use the coal produced in Chonchon. This coal, although somewhat low in calorific value, is found in large deposits. The existing boilers are unsuitable for this kind of coal; so the factories in those areas have to transport coal from distant places although they have their own

coal close at hand. As a result, production is very often affected by the inadequate supply of coal.

Ryanggang Province should also use the locally available fuel. There are inexhaustible peat deposits in the Paegam area and technicians say that the peat generates a very high temperature if it is compressed well, but not when it is used loose. If we step up research work and feed peat to the boilers, Ryanggang Province will not be hindered in production by the shortage of coal as is the case today, and its industry will develop more rapidly. It is extremely irrational, indeed, that coal should be brought from other regions to such an inconveniently situated locality as Ryanggang Province.

It is particularly important to use lignite, which is abundant in our northeastern region, as boiler fuel. The chemical industry and other industrial branches which use anthracite are developing quickly, and their rapidly growing demand is making the nation's anthracite situation acute. In spite of the shortage of anthracite, a great amount of mined lignite is just left to burn away, because it is not promptly transported and consumed.

In these circumstances we must take active steps to utilize lignite in larger quantities and regulate the consumption of anthracite and lignite rationally. Wasting precious anthracite with a high calorific value for boilers instead of using lignite, which is good enough, must be branded as a crime. Thermal power stations should be built near mines which produce large quantities of lignite and, as far as possible, this fuel should be used especially for boilers. At the same time, more anthracite must be sent to the chemical, iron and building-materials industries and some must be exported to obtain foreign currency.

Boilers should use lignite not only in the eastern but also in the western regions. It is not so difficult to transport lignite mined in the eastern region to the western region. When we can freely sail to the South Sea in the future, we can ship it through there. For the present it can be shipped to Wonsan by boat and then transported to the western region via the Ichon-Sepu railway line.

The point is to build many boilers which can use lignite. Officials in

the machine-building industry make a great mystery of the production of boilers, saying that they are high-pressure vessels, but there is nothing difficult to understand about this. If boiler-producing centres are developed and the required materials are supplied, we can manufacture boilers. It is absurd that our country, which is an industrial state, does not have its own boiler-producing centres yet. The economic departments of the Party Central Committee, the Cabinet, the Academy of Engineering Science and the Machine Industry Commission must have consultations promptly and take measures to produce boilers.

Only by creating boiler-producing centres of our own, can we standardize and modernize boilers to fit the characteristics of our fuel and base heating on Juche. In other words, only by building boiler-producing centres can we develop heating relying completely on our own fuel and products.

In addition to the establishment of the boiler-producing centres, it is important to set up repair centres, ensure an ample supply of spare parts for boilers, prepare coal yards and other auxiliary facilities.

At present many factories and enterprises have no coal yards, and in the rainy season coal is washed away or mixed with dirt and sand. It is evident that this mixture cannot produce the desired heat and causes a great waste of coal. All this should be prevented by building coal yards quickly and installing proper conveyer equipment.

Water should be softened to prevent fur from forming in boiler tubes, and measures must be adopted to remove it.

In addition, it is essential for the state to take steps to produce materials for lagging. At present pipes are so poorly lagged that a large amount of heat is lost and the neat appearance of factories is spoiled. The pipes are bound up in places by straw rope and plastered with mud and cement, with great gaps without lagging here and there. This is a terrible sight to see. The responsibility rests on the state rather than on the enterprises or boilermen. The state failed to establish a system to produce and supply materials for lagging and boilermen were left to their own devices. What are they to use for lagging? In our opinion, it would be better to produce lagging materials and eliminate the waste of heat rather than to

allot manpower and equipment for developing a new colliery to mine a few more million tons of coal. It will save coal, improve the appearance of factories, and set the boilermen at ease.

Next, technical control of heating equipment should be carried out properly and technical innovations must be made in regulating heat.

Improving the technical control of heating equipment and waging an energetic campaign for technical innovations is an important means of eliminating the waste of heat and saving coal.

Clear-cut instructions should first be made for the technical supervision of boilers and other heating equipment. Although we do have operational instructions, they have quite a few defects. It is necessary, therefore, to prepare well-defined instructions on the supervision, repair and maintenance of heating equipment as well as on technical inspections.

At the same time, strict discipline and order should be established in the technical supervision of heating equipment. There must be a rigid system under which boilers and heating equipment are inspected and repaired in good time and the operation of boilers prohibited if they are not maintained as required by the technical instructions or if pipes are not lagged; the installation of boilers should be considered as incomplete unless they are provided with auxiliary equipment. In this way we shall completely eliminate the disorganized practices we see today; as soon as the boiler is installed and the pipes are laid, it is fired whether the pipes are lagged or not, whether the auxiliary equipment is provided or not, wasting a great deal of heat and causing accidents in the process.

In order to improve heating radically, we should initiate a widespread technical innovation movement in this branch. From now onwards, senior officials of Party and economic bodies and enterprises must assist the heating workers to apply themselves to making innovations in this field.

In the past many senior economic officials did not try to introduce technical innovations in this sphere in order to normalize production and economize on coal; they only sat at their desks, deploring the fact that the insufficient amount of heat was affecting production. I suppose none of the ministers, heads of administrative bureaus and managers of factories have ever put on working clothes and lived with boilermen for at least a

week, firing boilers and checking the combustion rate and weak points, and studying how to make technical innovations. Apparently, our officials have become bureaucratic and work in a bureaucratic manner. They do not know how matters stand at the grass-roots level and do not go into the boiler room, regarding it as a place where menial work is done. This is a bureaucratic style of work alien to our Party's mass style of work. Despising the working class in a society where the working class is in power is absolutely impermissible. I was told that the senior officials of a certain factory did not even provide the boilermen with a rest room. What is worse, they went to the length of having one demolished. This is intolerable. This is more than just an ordinary bureaucracy. How can we call a minister, a manager and a Party secretary of the factory senior officials of the working class when they feel no remorse at depriving the boilermen of facilities for a proper rest?

Under our socialist system there are neither superiors nor inferiors. There is no reason why a minister should not visit a boiler room, share the life of boilermen and fire the boilers. In the past when we first organized the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army, we were the first to put on shoes and padded coats and stand on guard. We ourselves ascertained whether the shoes and coats kept out the cold during the two-hour guard duty. Only then were similar shoes and coats made and supplied to the rank and file. Our ministers have come from the working class. They experienced hardships in the past. However, since they are now well-dressed and have cars to go about in, they consider themselves to be assigned to some important government posts as in the old days and do not visit boiler rooms.

The senior officials must rectify this wrong attitude, visit boiler rooms, and work hard to help the boilermen to bring about technical innovations.

The teaching staff of universities and colleges as well as the scientists should also help them.

Thus, ministers, other senior officials and scientists will lend a helping hand to the boilermen, who, in cooperation with them, will bring about a radical change in their sphere of work.

Next, the heating workers must adopt the attitude of being masters of the nation's economy; they must do their work assiduously and meticulously and save as much coal as possible.

Today, in our country large thermal power stations are being built and heating capacities are increasing greatly, and the demand for coal is continuing to grow. When the construction of the Pukchang Thermal Power Plant is completed, a great deal of coal will be needed to operate just the Pyongyang and Pukchang Thermal Power Plants.

In order to meet this rapidly increasing demand for coal, we have to save as much coal as possible while increasing its production. Just as diligent housewives take good care of kitchen utensils and run their households with minute care, so the heating workers should take equally good care of heating equipment and carefully regulate the supply of heat. There are great possibilities for saving coal; we can save a lot of coal, if it is burned completely in boilers. The personnel concerned should try to raise the combustion rate of boilers, and take measures to collect half-burnt coal from inefficient boilers for household use or other purposes. In addition, all poorly-laid pipes must be repaired and lagged well to prevent the loss of heat as far as possible.

Measures should also be taken to harness heat which is now wasted. For instance, we can build small thermal power units or make use of it to heat even a few houses. In any case, we should make use of the heat which is now wasted in most cases. I was told that although it was a simple matter to install a heating system to harness wasted heat, a certain steel plant has taken no such steps but, instead, installed a lot of coal heaters in the offices.

Through our hard-fought struggle, we have produced and constructed a great deal but we have been unable to improve the living conditions of our people quickly enough because the nation's economy is run inefficiently, resulting in a great deal of waste. If only the waste was eliminated now, we could be far better off. They say that as much as three million tons of coal is wasted in the field of heating alone. If this amount is saved and exported, we can earn 12 million pounds. With this sum we can

buy 400,000 tons of wheat which can produce 100,000 tons of pork; and we can import good-quality fabric for 12 million suits.

A great deal of manpower is also being wasted in the heating sector. If we introduce mechanization and automation effectively in this field and release some 10,000 hands for the mining industry, this will also bring us in a huge sum of foreign currency. The Hyesan Mine, for example, could extract an unlimited amount of nonferrous metal ore if only it could have more manpower; but the mine cannot accelerate its development because of a shortage of manpower. When we visited Ryanggang Province recently, the officials of that mine asked for additional manpower, but we could only allocate several hundred men because of the strain on the nation's manpower. If manpower is saved in the heating sector and sent to this mine, it will produce much more ore which will not only meet the needs of the national economy for non-ferrous metals more fully but also earn a greater amount of foreign currency.

If we were to earn some 30 million pounds more every year, the people's living standards would be significantly improved within a few years. So the Party has set the task of intensifying the struggle to obtain foreign currency. The workers in the heating sector must play their part in this. Of course, in order to obtain foreign currency, the work of planting loofahs and raising silkworms should be continued through a mass campaign. This alone, however, cannot bring us in a sizable amount of foreign currency. While carrying on this mass drive, we should make every effort to find other means of obtaining a great deal of foreign currency. One of these is to increase our endeavours to make savings in the heating sector.

An important way of raising the people's living standards in our country is to eliminate waste. We must strongly combat practices which result in waste. Everyone must work hard to uproot obsolete ideologies which remain in their minds and wage an uncompromising fight against waste on the part of others as well, thus tapping and using all potential to the maximum.

I should like to propose today that a dynamic technical innovation campaign should be launched and that the nation's property be run

efficiently in the heating sector, so that two economization tasks will be fulfilled.

First, coal must be used sparingly. At the first stage we have to save 2-3 million tons of coal a year and at the second stage, 4-5 million tons.

Second, manpower must be used economically.

At present our country is suffering from an acute shortage of manpower. We have built factories but are unable to operate them properly, because we lack manpower. This shortage of manpower is largely due to the fact that industry is developing at an amazing rate and that great importance is still being attached to developing our national defences. This is true. But another reason is that manpower is wasted to a great extent.

It seems too much labour is being used in the heating sector at present. You must re-examine the situation and find a way to release surplus manpower voluntarily. By improving the organization of manpower and waging an energetic drive for technical innovations, you will have to release 10,000 men from the work force at the first stage and, in the future, cut your present work force by half.

I am convinced that the people in the heating branch will live up to the Party's expectations by unfailingly carrying out these two tasks—economization in coal and manpower.

Now let me say a few words on the question of training cadres in this field.

Since heating is very important, the training of cadres for this work should have been carried out in a proper and systematic way. This was not the case, however. There are schools for motor vehicle and tractor drivers, but there is none for heating workers.

In order to regulate heat properly, it is necessary to raise the technical and skill levels of the workers concerned. Measures should be adopted to increase their technical and skill levels and, at the same time, an adequate system should be established to train skilled hands in this field. Steps should also be taken to train more engineers and assistant engineers.

Lastly, the Party has to show greater concern for people working in heating.

As I have said, Party concern for them has been seriously lacking. They are assigned to a very tough and important task. Therefore, Party organizations and government and economic bodies, from top to bottom, should be deeply concerned about them. From now onwards, the heating workers, who are steeled in this backbreaking work, should be enrolled in the Party in large numbers and trained to be its hard core. The Party and the public should pay more attention to them.

I hope that on your return to your work places, you will inform all your colleagues and the technicians in your field of work of the intentions of the Party Central Committee and of this meeting.

It is my firm belief that you comrades present here and everyone involved with heating will bring about new innovations in this work, thereby contributing in no small way to the successful completion of the Six-Year Plan and the acceleration of the independent, peaceful reunification of the country.