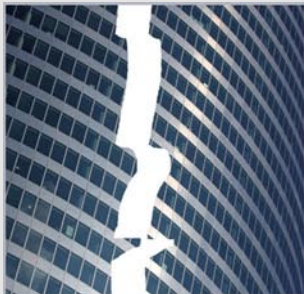


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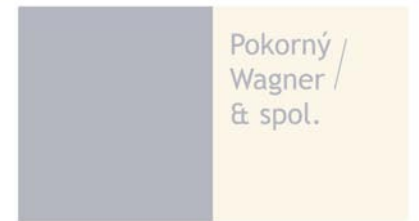
Fire sale

All of the hullabaloo surrounding Stanislav Gross's purchase of 31% of Moravia Energo reminds us of the anecdote about Winston Churchill and the lady he propositioned at a dinner party. We already know what kind of man Gross is; we just don't know his price. This latest grossity is more interesting as a story about slick manipulation of the media than humdrum political corruption. As Jan Macháček of HN noted on Czech Radio yesterday, there are signs that majority-owner Tomáš Chreněk of Moravia Energo was the source for the original [Euro](#) article that blew Gross's cover. Chreněk pretended to have learned about Gross's involvement in Moravia Energo from journalists but admitted in [MFD](#) today that he's known about it since Aug. And then he showed his hand by declaring that all the media glare decreases the value of the 31% stake. Which of course he now wants to buy for a song.



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