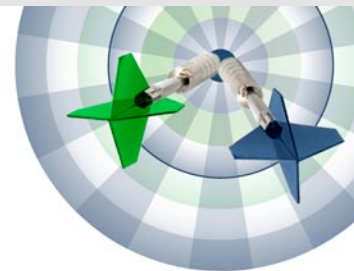


Zeman's time



What kind of person announces his candidacy for president nearly five years before the elections? Is it perhaps someone totally bored out of his mind who craves attention? Or is Miloš Zeman like Vlastimil Tlustý in the sense that he's allowing his vanity and feeling of injustice (for being embarrassed in the presidential elections by his own party five years ago and then ignored after the 2006 elections) to get the better of him? Is Zeman's main goal to see to it that Jiří Paroubek is replaced as ČSSD chairman early next year? Or does the great prognosticator have something else up his sleeve? One possibility being thrown around is that Václav Klaus is covering up some serious illness (why else would his health be treated like a state secret?) and that Zeman wants to be the default choice if Klaus steps aside. Another possibility is that Zeman wants to wait things out in the warmth of the PM's seat. From there he'd have all the bases covered.



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