

No. 2193 **the fleet sheet's final word** Fri., Sept. 11, 2009

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Nine long months



Václav Klaus hasn't been so angry since the "daylight robbery" of IPB nine years ago. He said that yesterday's decision by the Constitutional Court to strike down early elections was an intentional move meant to deepen the political crisis. All of society is threatened, he said. What the Court hoped to gain, he didn't say. It's entirely possible, though, that the country will be without a seated lower house of Parliament until regular elections next June if the Court continues to act this way. If the

House is dissolved next week and a new challenge to early elections is submitted and upheld by the high court, the cabinet and the finicky Senate will gain unprecedented power to pass - or not pass - legal measures. This could help explain Klaus's seething anger. With no MPs to push things through, some of the best-laid schemes of his business friends could be upset. For some, this is indeed a full-fledged crisis.