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Seal of disapproval



Kids say the darndest things, but it's politicians who can talk for hours without saying much of anything. Viewers who survived Czech TV's excruciatingly long debate on Sun. about the state budget heard a few valid comments about cutting spending, making welfare payments more needs-based, rebalancing the tax rates and paying down the national debt, but they didn't hear a word about eliminating the tens of billions of crowns of organized theft from the state budget. By avoiding this issue, Finance Minister Eduard Janota, Vice Chair Miroslav Kalousek of TOP 09, Chair Miloš Zeman of SPO and Prof. Jan Švejnar of IDEA think-tank demonstrated that they are not really interested in tackling the country's biggest problem. They dare not risk their careers. The same applies, of course, to the host of the debate, Václav Moravec. They are the first recipients of our "corruption facilitators" seal of disapproval.