## the fleet sheet's final word

No. 2295 Free subscriptions at subscribe@fsfinalword.com Wed., Feb. 10, 2010

## The 'elite'

A record number of Czechs are out of work, but the Czech and Slovak elite made an ostentatious display of attending a snow-polo tournament over the weekend at the invitation of one of the Five Families, J&T. In keeping with the tone, Patrik Tkáč of J&T told <u>Euro</u> that politicians and businesspeople have been getting together for thousands of years and will continue to do so. Corruption has been around forever, he said, while democracy is only 250 years old or so. In his articles in HN, lawyer Radek Pokorný argues that Czechs have nothing to be ashamed of in terms of their moral standards, because the Anglo-Saxon world is simply better at playing the game of looking ethical. Being decent and honest apparently isn't natural human behavior, Pokorný says, and there's not much that can be done about it. What lesson are we supposed to draw from this? That the Czech "elite," crisis or no crisis, will continue to take and lavishly spend their 20% and will dispense with the hypocrisy of pretending that it should be otherwise.



## FORECASTING DINNER 2010

at the Czech National Bank 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Organized by the Czech CFA Society under the auspices of Czech National Bank Governor Zdeněk Tůma.

Speakers: George A. Formandl, CFA (Czech CFA Society), Zdeněk Tůma (ČNB), Rob Carnell (ING), Juan Ignacio Crespo (Thomson Reuters), Alan J. Brown (Schroders).

