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King Coal & Suitcase Sobotka

Whether Zdeněk Bakala misled the [South Carolina Supreme Court](#) a decade ago about the value of his 34.5% stake in Patria Finance (only \$6.0m) is indeed interesting, but it isn't the biggest question mark that [Reportéři ČT](#) raised this week. More significant was the claim by Miroslav Motejlek that Bohuslav Sobotka, as finance minister, was the creator of Bakala's fabulous wealth. Sobotka privatized off the final shares in OKD for a song, and it's not entirely clear - although Bakala denies it - that Bakala did not already own a stake in OKD through Karbon Invest. The problem is that the Karbon Invest shares were bearer shares. They should have been seized as part of the criminal case against the former OKD owners but for some strange reason were not. "Suitcase" Sobotka said he has nothing to do with Bakala. Perhaps not, but his best friend forever, lawyer Radek Pokorný, has everything to do with Bakala.

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