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Hello, Lenin!



Just like in "Good Bye, Lenin!," Czechs will soon wake up in retro-Communism, thanks to Finance Minister Miroslav Kalousek's pension reform. Store shelves will become bare again of any nonessential food items, because the masses won't be able to afford anything but the staples. Forget the frozen pizza, because meals of pork, dumplings and sauerkraut will again become the norm. Bananas will have a *deja vu* as an exotic product in limited supply. International brand names will nearly disappear, except in member-only Tuzex stores reserved for the super-rich. When Alexandr Vondra recently attacked Kalousek for sitting in a collaborationist National Front party while he, Vondra, was sitting in prison, he was onto something. Maybe it's nostalgia for the old regime - and for the supreme position of power and privilege of those at the top - that is guiding Kalousek's pension-reform efforts.

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