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Like Russian, like Czech

There's the old Soviet joke (very loosely translated) about how the Politburo meets to decide which prices to increase in order to replenish the empty state coffers. "Start with the letter A and pick a product," says the chairman. "Apples" is the immediate response. So they raise the price of apples. "What about B?" he asks. "Butter," they all offer in unison. "C?" "Cheese" is the answer. They quickly get to the letter F, and they're all stumped. What starts with the letter F? No response. Finally, one of them shouts out in desperation, "Fucking everything." And so it is too with Czech pension reform. The price of effing everything is being raised. Czechs tend not to like the Russkies much, but the Kalousek pension "reform" risks making them more like them by the hour. Russians, you see, live for today and spend their money as quickly as they earn it, because they never know who's going to take it from them next.

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