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The Klaus video and bribe inflation

Most people resort to bribery, if at all, only after all the legal methods of persuasion have been exhausted. The head of a certain major semi-state Czech company is known for using bribery as the default option, without ever even considering the legal methods. To make sure the bribery works, he pays twice what he thinks should be necessary. Some people in business complain that this has led to bribe inflation.

Remember how [Mirek Topolánek](#) spoke last year about the need to bring the 15-20% "commissions" down to the old level of 5-7%? One reason the famous [Klaus pen video](#) (for our "official" subtitles, [click here](#)) stings so much and is so funny is that it shows a man with everything pilfering something that he doesn't need and that is his for the taking anyway. It's sad when duplicity, whether in politics or business, is the default option. It casts doubt on anything the person ever says or does.

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