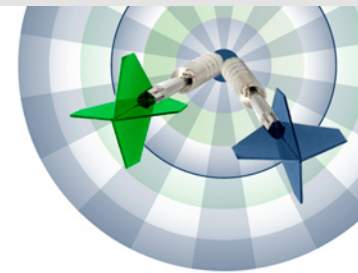


## Klaus, ABL and MFD

The Czech government withstood a no-confidence vote yesterday, but the political crisis continues to bubble under the surface, as do questions about the role of the media. It was simplistic and self-serving of Václav Klaus and his Castle gang to blame the media for causing the crisis. If there had been no substance to MFD's revelations about Vít Bárta and ABL, there could have been no crisis. But Klaus was perhaps half-right, because it's legitimate to ask whether MFD served someone else's purposes in its drive to win fame and boost readership by running the ABL stories when it did. As we noted before, reporter [Jaroslav Kmenta](#) of MFD hasn't always been honest with the public. He and his paper lost a Kč 670,450 libel judgment in 2006 - apparently the biggest in Czech history - but he continues to conceal this embarrassing fact when asked about it publicly. Just as the pen incident told us plenty about Klaus, this demonstrable transgression by Kmenta is reason to question anything he and MFD say about the way they operate.



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