

## Many fingers in the budget jar

Interior Minister Jan Kubice opened a can of worms this morning when he declared in [HN](#) that the mafias in the CR realized in about 2000 that the big money isn't so much in garbage, prostitution, drugs, etc., but rather in the government budget. He declined to say whom he had in mind, but it's hard to imagine he meant the [cathouse operators](#) off Wenceslas Square and the touts who peddle their wares. His comment instead seems to aim straight at the little regional "godfathers," the Five Families, the electrostate, the military-industrial complex and the private security agencies. Think of what Kubice's words imply about the police, the prosecutors, the courts and the cabinet itself. Have they all become service organizations for the criminal elite? What about Bohuslav Sobotka and Miroslav Kalousek, who as the main finance ministers during this period supported the ever-larger budgets that fueled the orgy? With them as the two most powerful politicians on the left and the right, it's hard to see how anything will get any better.



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