the fleet sheet's final word

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No confidence in VV

As Právo first reported, PM Petr Nečas is looking for a way to fulfill his promise to link the revised public-procurement law to a confidence vote without having to commit himself to the three-month time limit set out by the Constitution for passing such a bill. Nečas is being sly about his real reason for backtracking on this, but it appears to be his mistrust of VV. If coalition relations went further south during the three-month

period or if VV left the cabinet altogether, Nečas might not have time to find replacement MPs, and his cabinet could fall. President Václav Klaus would then step in. To remain in power, Nečas is even rumored to be considering joining forces with

Jiří Paroubek and a breakaway band of ČSSD and VV MPs. Nečas's political promiscuity in terms of the procurement law and the confidence vote might be bad news for Czech political culture, but for fans of the procurement changes, it's actually good news. It makes it more likely that the opposition - whoever it is at the time - will join the coalition in passing the bill.

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