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## Mystery trains skid to a halt

If you can't get to work on Mon. because the city-transit or rail workers are on strike, send your taxi bill to CEO Martin Roman of ČEZ. He could have done more than perhaps anyone, even PM Petr Nečas, to prevent the strike. As a member of Czech Railways' supervisory board until the end of 2009, he was well-positioned to get to the bottom of who owns Škoda Transportation, which supplies tens of billions of crowns in rolling stock to DP Praha and Czech Railways. Škoda had net profit of Kč 2.6bn in 2009 on revenue of Kč 5.1bn, including an operating margin of 39%. With a margin like that in heavy industry, you'd think Škoda Transport's beneficial owners would write a management book that outsells Jack Welch! Instead, they are merely the authors of a crime story of the kind that, while not the immediate cause of Monday's strike, is usually just below the surface whenever the money starts running out.

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