the fleet sheet's final word

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Radical protest, radical response 루

Finance Minister Miroslav Kalousek probably got it right when he said there is a significant majority of the people who are on the side of neither the government nor the unions in terms of the transportation strike that is now planned for Thur. The challenge for the labor unions is to properly define their objections to the government's policies and to find the right form of protest for achieving their goals. Absent this, they risk creating the very conditions for an "authoritarian" response from the government that ČSSD is warning against. It's hard for most people to see the link between a VAT increase (or a rise in the retirement age) and a road blockade. Bringing out the tanks, so to speak, is therefore easier for Kalousek and his yesman Jan Kubice to justify. (Anyone who thought Kubice was a new, improved form of interior minister absolutely must see TV Prima's <u>Partie</u> from yesterday.) It's not in the interest of the people to give the government an excuse to counter the radicalization of the population with its own radical response.



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