

The Murdoch touch

The Murdoch empire extends to the Czech Republic (News Outdoor billboard company, Dow Jones news agency), but the sale by Dow Jones in late 2006 of its 23.5% stake in Economia to Handelsblatt kept Rupert Murdoch out of HN and Ekonom. Handelsblatt subsequently sold Economia to Zdeněk Bakala in Aug. 2008, and Bakala sought to garner some of the Murdoch touch by recruiting a News Corporation director, [Andrew Knight](#), to serve as chairman of Economia's board. [HN](#) pointed out this direct link to Murdoch in April 2009. This is only important because there are increasing suspicions that Bakala is using Murdoch-like techniques to influence Czech politics. We certainly don't mean phone-hacking, but rather the other Murdoch specialty of punishing enemies through his publications. At least that is one way to explain the [spate of articles](#) in HN about ČSSD's party financing. You see, if ČSSD could be brought into line, Bakala's political problems with the whole OKD privatization might conveniently go away.



**YOUR CAREER IS
GOING GREAT**

**BUT IS IT
GREAT
FOR YOU?**

**PERHAPS WE
SHOULD TALK.
THIS IS WHO I AM**

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