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Tea Party politics

Obama gave the Republicans some pie-in-the-sky budget cuts over a 10-year period that probably won't ever materialize, and in exchange he received a very real increase in the U.S.'s debt ceiling. Once Republican voters figure out what has happened, more of them will likely defect to the Tea Party. On the Czech political scene, opinion polls show that ODS is stuck in a distant second place behind ČSSD and is now statistically tied with the Communists. When ODS's polling numbers are combined with TOP 09's, the two parties still outpace ČSSD, but ODS's status as the senior partner in its relationship with TOP is in danger. ODS's scandals are an obvious reason for this, but more important now is the way ODS has allowed Finance Minister Miroslav Kalousek to take over the government agenda. Perhaps ODS's only hope is to begin to openly challenge Kalousek on tax and budget issues and to become the sort-of Tea Party alternative to TOP 09. It would require ODS to move into VV's ideological territory, but all's fair in love and politics.



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