

Another defeat for Kalousek

Finance Minister Miroslav Kalousek wants to delay the effective date of certain pension- and tax-reform measures by a year, until 2014, yet no one seems to understand why he has suddenly shifted his position. One theory is that it is the cost of winning final approval for church restitution. (The same theory has been used to explain why he dropped the eco-tender, but Petr Nečas said Kalousek gave up on the tender when he counted the votes on the cabinet level.) Another theory is that Kalousek wants to gain access to two years of higher VAT receipts before the VAT money has to be put toward pension reform, but he denied this, saying that he can guarantee that all extra VAT revenue will be used for pension reform. Whatever the real reason, and no matter how much Kalousek tries to put a brave face on it, his shift on the effective date of the reforms can be read as another defeat for him. There was a time not so long ago when it seemed that Kalousek was maneuvering to replace Nečas as PM, but those days are gone.



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