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## Blood, sweat and tears

In his [New Year's address](#) yesterday, Václav Klaus came closer than ever before to the kind of "blood, sweat and tears" speech that Czechs have needed to hear for at least the past decade. He said that fundamental changes are needed, esp. in terms of the feeling of entitlement and the habit of living on debt. Otherwise, he said, there could be very painful repercussions. It's hard to disagree with this so far, but it's what Klaus didn't say that is the most important. He criticized unnamed "pressure groups" (presumably labor unions) for pushing their own agendas, but he made no reference whatsoever to the industrial and financial groups that have been the main cause of the rapid rise in the national debt. When he said that our success or failure stands or falls primarily with the performance of each of us, he was telling only half the picture. It also depends on what the "godfathers" and oligarchs decide to do in 2012.



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