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## Leading Czech banker takes the Fifth



Refusing to testify in court for fear of self-incrimination isn't an admission of guilt, but it raises questions about a person's past behavior. Whenever a prominent person anywhere in the world "takes the Fifth" (as the Americans refer to it), it leads to headlines and scandal. When Ex-Chair Jan Juchelka of the National Property Fund (NPF) did it on Fri. in the OKD case, [Czech TV](#) didn't even mention in its evening news that he is CEO of Komerční banka. Whether Juchelka violated the "public behavior" clause of his bank's [code of conduct](#) by refusing to testify is up to the supervisory board. It should review his grounds for doing so, just as the the top brass at the public prosecutor's office should. Prosecutors should explain to the public why two mid-level NPF employees are being tried, given that the real OKD decisions were made in 2004 by Bohuslav Sobotka as finance minister. Sobotka was no doubt right in Sept. when he said that the wrong people are on trial.

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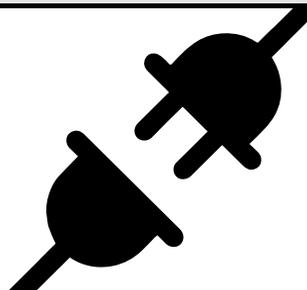
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