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## Filip in the driver's seat



It's an easy calculation, and the Communists have done it: For a coalition government of ANO+ČSSD to secure a confidence vote, all members of KSČM must at least "tolerate" it by walking out of the chamber. If even one of ANO's or ČSSD's MPs is not present for the roll-call vote, the coalition will need the active support of the Communists. Add to this the fact that Ondřej Veselý of ČSSD has threatened to resign from Parliament if his party decides in its referendum to enter such a coalition, and the value of a raised Communist hand potentially skyrockets. (There's no guarantee that Veselý's replacement would be sworn in before the confidence vote was taken.) The Communists have ANO and ČSSD in a vise and are starting to tighten it by making loud demands about cabinet ministers, foreign military missions and taxes on the rich. Something tells us the Communists will not be as quick to relent as ČSSD was when Andrej Babiš dismisses their demands out of hand.

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