

Cumulators Hungry for Power

In our politics, the issue of accumulating multiple positions is increasingly becoming a problem. We cannot understand how someone can simultaneously manage, for example, being the mayor of a city with more than six thousand inhabitants, while also serving as a member of parliament or a senator.

The most common reasons we hear are that they want to finish their unfinished work. Can't their colleagues under their supervision finish it instead? We also heard a promise from a similar position-holder that they will work on Saturdays and Sundays. But what about their private life—family?

Old Czech proverbs have long warned against sitting on two chairs. The ANO 2011 movement criticized such accumulators, but in the end, several of their members hold multiple positions. "How is that possible, comrade?" Accumulating functions can be considered as devaluing them. Does this mean they are not demanding and can be responsibly handled only part-time?

Some specific examples: Governor Bělica is also a member of parliament, the mayor of Semily is also a senator, and so on. There are even worse accumulators, but I won't write about them to avoid unnecessarily raising my blood pressure.

Holding multiple positions in one person's hands can also signify a lack of quality people in political parties and movements, or a lack of trust in others. Instead of someone who does a second function only half-heartedly, there could be someone who would take it on responsibly and full-time—100 %.

It is a sad reality that in these unfavorable times, many people, including school cooks, cleaners, court clerks, firefighters, police officers, and even members of the so-called "middle class," have to do additional paid jobs or positions in addition to their main profession. Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to pay rising taxes, fees, rent, bills for electricity, gas, water, sewage, phones, and other growing expenses.

This is happening at a time when ministers, MPs, and senators are raising their salaries with the excuse that they have to do so after the Constitutional Court's ruling on judges' salaries, which are tied to theirs (due to their unfortunate legal regulation). But this is clearly not enough for some elected MPs and senators.

Many of them were mayors, deputy mayors, or governors before being elected as MPs or senators, and they don't want to leave these paid positions even after being elected to higher office. They say they bring experiences from the "field" into their new functions, and their towns, cities, or regions can benefit from their involvement in the power centers of the state.

This smells of contempt for voters and a lack of understanding of the demands of their positions. Before elections, they promise to leave their original positions, but in many cases, "action speaks louder than words." And let's not even mention the fact that some of them haven't even left their original jobs as doctors, university professors, etc., and that they are appointed to various other paid positions, such as members of supervisory boards of insurance companies, banks, health insurance companies, transport companies, hospitals, etc.

"Fiala's high costs" have probably already reached the elite levels of the top, so holding multiple jobs has already become the norm for top politicians.

Here is a list of positions that should be carried out independently: president, member of parliament, senator, minister, and government member (sliding mandates?), governor, regional council member, mayor of a municipality with more than 6,000 inhabitants. The accumulation of the position of political party or movement leader with a government position is also controversial.

The problem is not only in the Czech Republic, but it is known elsewhere. In fact, they are trying to address it! For example, in France, a member of parliament cannot also be a senator. They cannot even

be a governor or mayor. Elsewhere, accumulators simply receive only one salary. In politically more cultured countries (which, unfortunately, the Czech Republic cannot yet be considered), they rely on the morality of the politicians in question. And what about us?

Zdeněk Joukl (with the contribution of Martin Říha)

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