



Czech Health Care System Reform



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Chair

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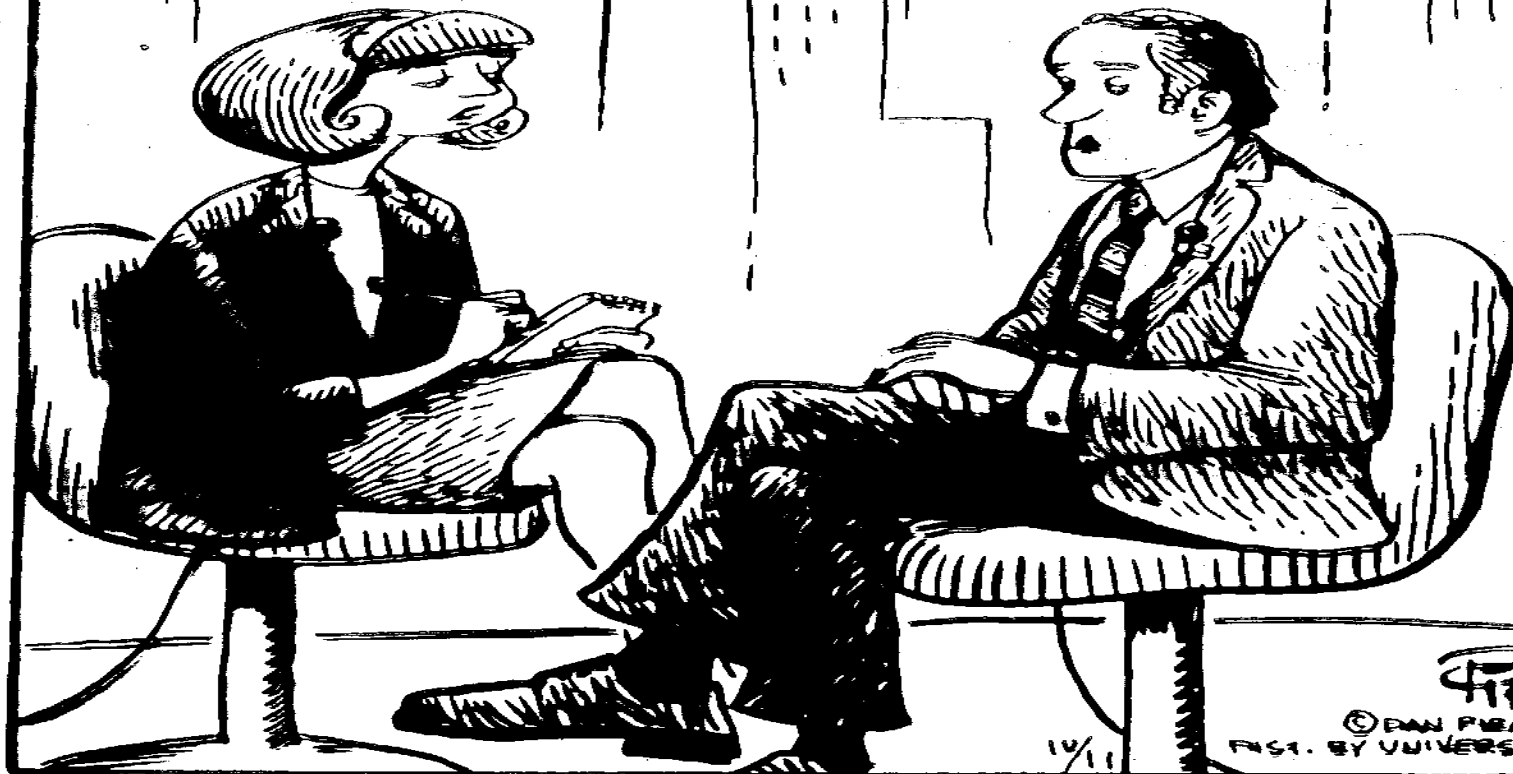


Pre-reform system

- state owned
- centrally directed
- centrally planned
- centrally (under) funded (Shemashko)
- absence of free choice of provider
- two-tier system with political preferences
- health-care management non existent

DOCTOR, HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO CRITICS WHO SAY THAT WITH THIS NEW PROCEDURE YOU ARE, IN EFFECT, "PLAYING GOD"?

I STRIKE THEM DEAD WITH A BOLT OF LIGHTNING.



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Reform principles

- decentralization
- “liberalization” of the system
 - self - governing institutions, NGOs
 - patients representing organisations
- quality issues
- privatization of health care providers
- change of funding mechanism



Decentralization

- Closure of Health-Authorities
- Non-state providers
 - private
 - municipal
 - church owned





Liberalization

- Professional chambers set by law (physicians, dentists, pharmacists)
- Institutions representing providers (hospitals, GPs, nurses)
- QA policy, accreditation





Privatization

- Mainly outpatient facilities
- Inpatient care - only small facilities or long-term-care institutions
- Hospital restructuralization project



Funding mechanism

- Mandatory public health insurance
- no „opt-out“
- State paying for „no-income“ groups
- Insurance premium 13,5 % income (self-employed)
- 2/3 of insurance premium paid by employer (employed)



Funding mechanism (contd.)

- Extensive basic benefits package
- Basic redistribution (risk adjustment)
- Reimbursement
 - capitation payments (GP)
 - fee-for-service (ambulatory specialists)
 - budgets (hospitals)



Managerial training

- no previous experience of Czech educational facilities
- most managers - medical/nursing profession
- „learning by doing“
- primary incentive - Hospital Associations
- project HOPE - training future teachers
- top hospital management

Managerial training

- shift from one-off courses to systematic training
- transferring foreign educational systems (MBA) - mainly US & GB systems
- managerial training for middle managers
- lack of interest - public servants
- frequent legislation changes