

LL/B
25 April
VI/R/2/511

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MORALE AND GENERAL MOOD
Jokes and Anecdotes.

A Joke

SOURCE ROME: An Italian who legally left Czechoslovakia in February 1953.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVAL. COMMENT: None.

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Bars, dance halls and pubs are always crowded with people in PRAGUE see king escape from reality, and if politics come into the conversation it is only to joke about it. One of the most up-to-date political jokes is the one about Saint Vaclav, whose monument on horseback is near the museum on the PRAGUE "Champs Elyssées" i.e. Václavské Square. The government had called all available forces for the realization of the Five-Year-Plan, just before Christmas - and among the requisitioned horses there was, unfortunately, also Saint Vaclav's horse, called to serve his country. Thus, poor Saint Vaclav was left without a horse, but tried, however, to get it back. He contacted the "ZAPOTOCKY" and pleaded, but without any success. He was told that his country needed all available forces, men and cattle, and that for the benefit of his country, he would have to manage without it. Saint Vaclav was lost without his horse here on earth, and decided to seek asylum in heaven. He set out and flew up to Saint Peter, but St. Peter ^{didn't} let him into paradise, but told him to come back again on horseback. Saint Vaclav had no other choice, but to return, and in his despair he thought of enlisting Klement GOTTWALD's help and assistance. He told him his story, but even GOTTWALD would not allow him to have his horse back and told him: "How can I possibly give you your horse back? I am responsible to our little father in MOSCOW and have to see to it that all available forces are serving our country? But I will help you and go with you to see St. Peter, maybe he will listen to me. So, both of them set out and St. Peter saw them flying up and screamed at them, furiously: Didn't you understand me? I told you to come back here with your horse and not with an ox!"

End.