

A daily e-mail bulletin of Czech wit & wisdom. For your free subscription, write to [subscribe@fsfinalword.com](mailto:subscribe@fsfinalword.com)

## Who benefits from higher VAT?

Nearly everything has been said about the planned VAT hike next year, but it's worth recapitulating a few points. Cynicism in the CR has grown so widespread that many people see the VAT increase as a way for Miroslav Kalousek to take more money from working people so that the criminal elite can have a steady pool from which to steal. If people were convinced that the extra tax revenue were going toward good causes, such as pensions or deficit-reduction, the opposition wouldn't be as great. Václav Klaus himself told [LN](#) in March that he sees no great reason for such a radical reform of VAT. But when it comes time for him to sign or veto the bill, he almost certainly won't mention the corruption aspect. He told [Czech TV](#) that corruption is a cheap political topic and that true corruption might be more brutal and ugly here but is otherwise no worse than the sophisticated kind a little farther to the West.



In 2011/12 PBS is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. If you are a former student, parent or member of staff please contact us and find out how you can get involved in the celebrations.

