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Someone should have said . . . don't mention the war

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Friday April 30 2010

THERE was an ill-tempered exchange at the Finance [Dublin](#) conference in [Dublin Castle](#) this week, when the top table lashed into the German government for buying a list of tax dodgers from a whistleblower.

The exchange started with chairman [Peter O'Dwyer](#) of Hainault Capital joking that it was "a sign of the times" that there were no Irish on the list, because they could no longer afford to bank in Lichtenstein.

But it soon degenerated into an anti-German rant from the right-wing [Cato Institute's Dan Mitchel](#), who raged that it was a "morally disgusting thing" to buy the list and then went on to rant that Germans had a history of shopping Jews to the [Gestapo](#).

Kenmare stint over

THE exploration sector undoubtedly throws up a more colourful type of chief executive than most other sectors. One of them is the popular [Charles Carvill](#), who announced his retirement from [Kenmare Resources](#) this week after joining the company 24 years ago when it "had no employees, no bank accounts, no projects and no money", in his own words.

Now that the titanium-focused explorer is well established, Mr Carvill plans to leave. "I have now arrived at an age where a quieter life beckons," Mr Carvill told shareholders in a trading update. We wish him well.

Business alumni

[MICHAEL Carey](#), executive chairman of Jacob Fruitfield Food and the man who puts the fig into your fig rolls, was one of two men recognised as UCD Business Alumni of the Year by the [Smurfit Business School](#). Tullow chief executive [Aidan Heavey](#) was the other.

Mr Carey was celebrated for turning round [Fruitfield Foods](#) since leading a consortium to buy the loss-making biscuit company in 2002, while Mr Heavey was feted for creating Tullow, the oil company that has the biggest market cap of any company founded by a living Irishman. Previous winners include [Dublin Chamber of Commerce](#) head [Gina Quin](#), [Davy Stockbroker](#) boss [Tony Garry](#), and [United Drug's](#) Liam FitzGerald.

Reputation intact

PERHAPS the worst really is over for Allied Irish. The bank said this week that corporate-reputation expert [Jenny Winter](#) is retiring from the board.

She leaves after six busy years, which has seen more than a little damage to [AIB's](#) reputation.

The [AstraZeneca](#) veteran is a former chief executive of the [Wicklow](#)-based Barretstown Gang Camp, which helps children with cancer and other serious illnesses. [Glen Dimplex](#) chief executive [Sean O'Driscoll](#) is also stepping down after four years on the board.

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