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Babiš and Bakala



Andrej Babiš and Zdeněk Bakala are arch rivals but are more alike than either will admit. They both made part of their fortunes by "[tunneling](#)" [companies](#) they had 100% control over. (It wasn't until after the NWR/OKD [dividend recapitalization](#) that Bakala took NWR public.) The difference is more on the operational level. In the quote from The Godfather about how "the lawyer with the briefcase can steal more money than the man with the gun," Bakala is the lawyer (or investment banker) with the starched shirt, and Babiš is the wise guy who stares down the barrel as he wrenches companies from competitors. Bakala the banker has ring-fenced himself much better than Babiš. Whereas Bakala's greatest exposure is through Bohuslav Sobotka, who tossed him OKD, Babiš is right there in the thick of it. The more he scuffles with Miroslav Kalousek and others, the more his own gun is turned on him. And Bakala is one of the many itching to pull the trigger.

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