

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

27 “*Go learn about labor law!*”

Being young and on our own is an exhilarating experience. The difficulty is we often don't know very much.

A few months after we opened our small two man office, I received an unexpected call from a client. Union pickets had appeared in front of the building being constructed for the company and he was concerned it would delay their opening. When I explained that I was not prepared to handle that kind of situation, his response was typical for many of the entrepreneurs I came to know over the years: “*Go learn about labor law!*”

In those days most labor law work was in the larger cities, so I headed (by train) for Kansas City. I visited the National Labor Relations Board office and spent time with a knowledgeable labor lawyer. After two or three days I returned home, and proceeded to practice labor law. That case led to another and then another. Before long it was my principal area of work. And so it continued for almost 40 years.

Years later, another older lawyer and I were reliving some of our early experiences. “Why”, we asked ourselves, “would we take any case and get educated when we were young but become so cautious later?” I suppose one reason is that young folks often don't have much to lose. But isn't it really because we are supposed to be bold and take more risk when we are younger? Isn't it the way we are made?

I have concluded we ought to live our age at each time of life. There is a time to be old—but it is when we are old!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2017 Marvin J. Martin