

TAKING THE WRONG TURN TO FIND THE RIGHT ROAD

As I said, my dream was to go to law school, for which you had to take the admissions test known as the LSAT or law boards. The other option was the Graduate Record Exam for admission to graduate school. Each test cost \$15, but, hard as it may be to believe, I only had enough money to take one of the two tests, not both. I was going with my heart and planned to do the LSAT. But, then reality set in. I thought that if I spent my \$15 on the LSAT, what would it really result in? I could not afford to go to school without some kind of extensive scholarship, and no school really had scholarships to give for law school. So, even though my heart was yearning for law school, I put my \$15 towards the Graduate Record Exam, thinking that maybe I could get some type of scholarship help, and that would be a way to shape my future. It would be the wrong turn down a different path than my dream, but it would at least be something to allow me to keep building toward a meaningful career.

I also had developed some interest in city planning and urban renewal and considered going for a master's degree in public administration at Northern Illinois University so I might become a city manager. In fact, my senior thesis at Loras was entitled "A Plan of Urban Renewal for the City of Dubuque." But, my GRE scores were such that I was accepted to the brand new Master's program in Political Science at Marquette University in Milwaukee. It would begin in September. After graduating in spring of 1964, I was sporting my new class ring and feeling that my future now had an upward direction.

But it felt like I was making the wrong turn and not following the direction I dreamed of to law school. But this "wrong turn" would eventually end up with me on the "right road" in terms of my career and my life. In retrospect, this is a theme that would recur again and again throughout my career.