

What Not to Say

A California executive who had been a successful leader in his previous jobs was brought in as CEO of a startup enterprise in New York.

The company showed promise, but had made no money yet, so the employees were willingly working long hours on the hope of success.

The new CEO got off to a rocky start when he announced he would be returning to his home in sunny California and managing the company by phone and email. He sought to win people over by promising that he would always be available if they needed to contact him.

“Don’t worry,” he said. “I’ve got a phone by the pool!”

How do you suppose that line went over with his stressed-out employees?



Leadership usually does have its privileges, and many of the leaders who have them earned them.

But it is never wise to forget how your behavior may look to those who don’t have quite so many privileges.

– Beecher Hunter