

to narrow the focus of this one, when the young lady came and said that Clarkson Hospital, where she worked, and which had fired her because somebody said they saw her smoking on a sidewalk outside the hospital, and it was never proved that she actually smoked, but after all of that, they told her, as Senator Hall indicated, that if you will not go down to the Legislature and talk about what happened or support this legislation, then you can get your job back. You cannot, in my opinion, as an employer, say that you're going to take away the right of a citizen guaranteed by the Constitution to petition the government for redress of grievances as a condition to holding a job. And I think that a line does have to be drawn. One of the things that had me in opposition to this kind of legislation is the tobacco industry. I hate R.J. Reynolds. I hate Phillip Morris. I hate all of them. They have some of the cleverest commercials that you can find. You've come a long way, baby, to get as much lung cancer, emphysema and other tobacco-related injuries, as men, but, by God, you're there now, you're moving on up in the world. Crazy. They target young, poor white women in the same way they targeted black people...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...because as people get more education and move upward, they stop smoking, so in order to continue making their profits, they target these vulnerable groups. Because the tobacco industry is the one primarily behind this legislation all over the country, I automatically had an opposition. But then you begin to weigh what is more important, my contempt and hatred for the tobacco industry and what they're doing to people or the rights of people, and the rights of people won out. So even though I don't like that industry and I don't want their lobbyists to misunderstand my supporting this bill, because I will fight them tooth and nail on everything else, this bill is aimed to protect the rights of our citizens and residents. If they choose to go out of here by smoking, that's their business. If they choose to float out of here...

SENATOR WILL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...on alcohol, that's their business.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk, we have something on the desk.