

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

January 18, 2000 LB 750

raise as an argument for an issue, other than to hurl it at those who will apply it here and not apply it there, we should try to create as many environments that are family-friendly as possible, environments where the main thing offered is wholesome and healthful in and of itself. We already regulate the sanitation in restaurants. This idea of smoke not being harmful has been repudiated, even by the tobacco industry now, because they're running into so much trouble and it's costing them money, making it difficult to do business. I was mentioning some establishments to Senator Hilgert where the proprietors have told me that they don't want to just tell their customers, you cannot smoke, but if they could say the state law does not allow smoking, they'd jump on it in a minute, because they don't want to be in the smoke. They have other customers who don't want to be in the smoke. And as to whether or not a proprietor is weak in not just saying, you can't smoke here, we have to take into consideration human nature. There are different ways to make a point. Some ways are considered rude, not prudent, boorish, and there are other ways to try to accomplish the same thing. So maybe a proprietor does not have it in him or herself to say, you cannot smoke here because it's my policy, whereas the same proprietor, as I pointed out earlier, would not hesitate even to put up a sign saying, state law prohibits smoking. And I don't see a thing wrong with that. And I doubt that there is a restaurant that would experience any significant drop in patronage because of a no smoking policy. Now I know people who will avoid restaurants because there is smoking, but I don't know of smokers who say, I go to this restaurant because I can smoke, because they can smoke at home or outdoors. They say, I go there because I like the food. Well, they're not going to cease liking the food in that restaurant if they can't smoke. They'll just load up on nicotine before they go into the restaurant and try to make it through, and then before they get the jimjam tremens for nicotine withdrawal by the time they finish their meal, then they can go ahead and eat a little quicker and smoke when they get out. But I doubt seriously that anybody spending the amount of time it ordinarily takes to consume a meal, even when you're with your family and you're going to do it in a leisurely, civilized manner, that a smoker is going to have these serious withdrawal problems during that period of time. I don't know whether people who smoke wake up periodically during the night to get a nicotine fix. I don't