

George Lottier is a smoker. He thinks it's time the Government confronted more pressing issues.

"WHAT.DO WE NEED? MORE ATTACKS ON SMOKERS OR MORE WAYS TO FIGHT CRIME, DRUGS

AND UNEMPLOYMENT?"

"If you want to talk about what's tearing us apart in this country, it's lack of jobs, it's drugs and it's crime.

"It's not smokers.

But if all the new laws and proposals are any indication, the Government seems to think that smokers are the number one priority. We're an easy target to go after, an easy victory.

"I think the Government's job is to inform people about smoking and then let the individual make his own decision. But with all the legislation being proposed, it's reached the point where smokers are so alienated we have no choices anymore.

"In my opinion the non-smoker has rights. But, as a smoker, I have rights too. Instead of banning everything, why can't the Government look for an alternative. It's gotten to the point where a smoker is a leper. And pretty soon, if they put more taxes on cigarettes as they are planning to do, cigarettes will only be available from illegal sources.

"If we allow them to regulate smoking any more, then they'll be able to turn to other things. Where will they stop?

"It's time to change our priorities. We've lost sight of what's most important."

This opinion is brought to you in the interest of an informed debate by the R.J.Reynolds Tobacco Company. We believe that the answer to most smoking issues lies in accommodation, in finding ways in which smokers and non-smokers can co-exist peacefully. We encourage dialogue and discussion that will solve the issues without resorting to Government intervention. For further information call 1-800-366-8441.

TOGETHER, WE CAN WORK IT OUT