Chapter 4: Page 105 Question 2

When an engineer states that s/he only "works here" can convey a lot of different meanings. Firstly, it means that they do not wish to take responsibility for the work that the company does. In my opinion, it is important for an employee to be comfortable and willing to take responsibility for what their employer does. Even if it is not a project that they participated in, the companies reputation affects the reputation of the engineer. A dramatic example is the engineer that oversaw the emissions testings for Volkswagen. The engineer responsible can claim that they 'only worked there' and that s/he was doing only what s/he was told, but in the end, s/he signed off on the test, and in turn, committed fraud. The engineer in that case faces up to five years in jail, which goes to show that 'I only work here' doesn't stand up in court. An employee of a company should agree with those larger ideals of the company, like the fact that Volkswagen was willing to falsify emissions testing to save some money. Even if the engineer disagreed, he still went along with the tests, and suffered in the long run.

Another consequence of saying that you 'only work here' is that is shows the company that you are not invested in the companies success, and that you are only working there to get paid. This is a more acceptable stance to take when you are working a minimum wage job, but when you are a salaried professional, the company will most likely demand that you are more interested in the companies success than just making sure they can pay you at the end of the day. This stance, if taken frequently, may be an indicator to people that you are not performing to your highest level. This could very well result in the engineer losing his/her job if the company needs to lay someone off, or if they just become fed up with you lackadaisical stance when it comes to your employment.