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TODAY AND TOMORROW

"THE KALAMAZOO STORY"

BY WADE ARNOLD

CAGNEY: Hello. This is James Cagney. First, I'd like you to listen to the voice of a gentleman who lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

TAYLOR: In the days when paper mills on the Kalamazoo River were few in number and small in size, people looked with gratitude on the job opportunities which were afforded by these mills, and the pollution load on the river was so small that it constituted no public problem.

But gradually there came to be more and more paper mills and as the country grew in prosperity these mills grew in size. Whereas there had been no problem with a little pollution of the Kalamazoo River, the problem finally came to be one which could not be ignored.

CAGNEY: That was Dr. Harold Taylor, director of the Upjohn Institute in Kalamazoo. He was pinpointing one aspect of an over-all problem about which another friend of ours, Bernard Baruch, was talking when he told us:

BARUCH: Since our real wealth is drawn from the earth, in always limited quantities, as minerals, food, water, wood and wildlife, destruction of the earth's surface and waste of its products have a cogent meaning that touches the life, today and tomorrow, of every human being.

(MUSIC: THEME IN QUICKLY AND UNDER)

ANNCR: Today and Tomorrow -- presented by the National Broadcasting Company and the Conservation Foundation.

(MUSIC: UP BRIEFLY AND OUT)

And here again is your narrator -- Mr. James Cagney:

CAGNEY: This is a story about water -- and the way that people use it. It takes 24,000 gallons of water to make a ton of steel, 240,000 gallons to dress a thousand hogs, 470,000 gallons to make a thousand barrels of beer, and -- pertinent to this true story about Kalamazoo -- 35,000 gallons to make an average ton of paper. For here's what happened, in the case of the paper mills that dot the banks of Michigan's Kalamazoo:

ADAMS: According to our records, there were some 1200 tons of paper produced there in 1930. And in these 1950 surveys, we're looking at 2071 tons.

CAGNEY: In twenty years, the production of paper almost doubled -- but the size and flow of the river, the waters which are the life blood of this paper making process, remained the same. Incidentally, the man quoting those figures was Milton C. Adams, chairman of the Michigan Water Resources Commissions, whose actual voice, along with the voices of a number of Kalamazoo Valley citizens, will bring you this story -- their own account of a civic-minded effort to face and solve a problem that's common to us all. People -- and water. But in Kalamazoo, the situation was uncommonly acute. For, as Milton Adams told us --

ADAMS:

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There's probably no place in the United States where the concentration of industry of this type in relation to the available water is as unfavorable as we find it.

CAGNEY:

Of course, these factories don't actually "use up" the water. It's not within man's power to add to or subtract from the same Biblical waters that floated the Ark and parted for Moses and the tribes. There's precisely as much water today in the sea and streams and clouds as when Caesar crossed the Rubicon. What man does to water is to "borrow" it -- at a critical moment in the cycle through which endlessly pass all the waters of the earth. But, like any good borrower, man should return the article in reasonably good condition. When he fails to do so in the case of water, it's called "pollution". That's what you need to know as background for a scene that took place in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on March 27, 1951. Milton Adams, secretary of the State Water Resources Commission, was listening to a delegation of indignant citizens from the town of Allegan, a few miles downstream from industrial Kalamazoo. They were Attorney Leo Hoffman, Allegan's city manager, Philip Beauvais, and Guy Teed, a conservationist. Listen:

HOFFMAN:

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Well, Mr. Adams, for many years we in Allegan have watched that river go from bad to worse until it's reached such a condition that it's unbearable.

ADAMS:

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I know from the information in our files and from the reports my men give me that the Kalamazoo River through and below Kalamazoo and downstream through Plainwell and Otsege and Allegan, is a mess.

BEAUBAIS: I've only been in office two years, but long enough to
6 know that my public is up in arms --

HOFFMAN: The odor coming from the river is so strong and
7 unpleasant that it interrupts people's sleep, it destroys their appetite, and it takes the paint from the houses.

BEAUBAIS: We don't contribute a drop in the bucket to the amount
8 of the pollution that goes into that river and we have to take all of the filth and sewage and pollution from Kalamazoo, Otsege, Plainwell, Parchment, and some ten or twelve paper mills.

HOFFMAN: The river was originally a beautiful river; people
9 came from long distances to live on the river, to fish there, which brought business into Allegan.

ADAMS: How about it, Guy? How do you feel about it?
10

TEED: I think the gentlemen have covered the situation pretty
11 well. We're losing the potential assessed valuation on thousands of building locations along the banks of this river which means the taxpayers have waited long enough to get some action from the water resources commission.

HOFFMAN: We have a large, beautiful lake downstream from us, and
12 today the sludge that is deposited in the river by the de-inking mills in Kalamazoo is beginning to enter that pond.

ADAMS: In the summer of 1950 very complete tests and surveys
13 were made. They show a very substantial growth in the mill output, for instance, between the time of our last survey in 1946. There was something like 1730 tons of paper produced here in this valley in 1946, and that's gone up to 2070 tons in 1950.

BEAUVAIS: Well, Mr. Adams, this committee doesn't come here
14
critizing you or the stream control commission, but we
can't emphasize too much the need for action --
immediate action by way of cleaning up the pollution
in the Kalamazoo river.

ADAMS: All right, but actually, I want you to remember this --
15
we almost had this log jam broken in 1936, but there
are certain things that are not within my control or
within the control of my commission, but for years
we've approached the mills. They know this thing
isn't right. We worked first on the city and then we
worked on the mills and the mills would hide behind the
city and the city behind the mills, and now with the
mills having done little or nothing, the cities haven't
done very much either. I think Allegan is the only
one we can credit with a plant upstream besides Battle
Creek.

HOFFMAN: Yes, but Mr. Adams, how long do you have to wait? In
16
1936 you said you almost broke this log jam. Now here
we are today. Mayor Todd wants to delay the matter
further so he can appoint a committee to study the
situation.

(MUSIC: _ _ IN AND UNDER)

CAGNEY: "A committee to study the situation". Well, in his
exasperation, Leo Hoffman had his facts straight, all
right.

(MUSIC: _ _ OUT)

(MORE)

(CAGNEY - CONTINUED)

For, shortly before these gentlemen from Allegan paid this call on Milton Adams, Mayor Paul Todd of Kalamazoo had indeed made a recommendation to his city commission, and these were his words:

TODD:
17

As the members of the commission know, the Water Resources Board has prepared orders requiring most of our local paper mills to cut down on the amount of waste they are putting into the Kalamazoo River. This condition is a decided nuisance and we can't blame the Water Resources Board and the Conservation Board for insisting that definite steps be taken to cut down these wastes. On the other hand, we all realize that the Kalamazoo community depends heavily on the paper industry. There are over 10,000 people here whose livelihood depends on the continued operation of these mills. I have conferred with management of Kalamazoo mills at length about the problem and they tell me that they just don't see how they can comply with the orders of the Water Resources Board at the present time on account of technical problems involved. Under these circumstances it seems to me that the best approach is to have a committee made up of executives from the Kalamazoo paper mills and some other representative citizens to study this problem with the collaboration of Mr. Milton Adams and such other members of the board as might be available. I'm convinced that the mills want to do what they should do in this situation, and believe this committee can outline some practical compromises which the board would accept temporarily

(MORE)

(TODD - CONTINUED)

at least and which the mills would find it possible from a practical standpoint to comply with. I should therefore like to be authorized by the Commission to request the Water Resources Board to hold up issuing definite orders to the local paper mills in order to give this committee a reasonable time in which to study the problem and try to come up with a practical solution.

(MUSIC: IN AND UNDER)

CAGNEY: That's the proposal that was coming from Kalamazoo in the Spring of '51. A little further study.

(MUSIC: OUT)

A little more time. But for these men from Allegan, as they stated their case to Milton Adams, time was running out.

HOFFMAN: Why do we have to have it studied? Everybody knows
18 that it's making life miserable for us. We don't want to wait. We want some action now!

ADAMS: Well, I think the Commission is ready to take action.
19 I would suggest that they require the committee to make its report not later than September meeting and let us know what they come up with. I wouldn't think that it would take more than three or four months.

BEAUVAIS: You mentioned the fact that the City of Allegan has a
20 primary treatment plant taking care in some measure of its own municipal sewage. This plant will probably be worn out by the time that other plants up the river start operating.

ADAMS: Oh, I hope not, Phil. I hope we will get to doing
21 something before that.

BEAUVAIS: Well, I hope so, too, but Mr. Adams, wouldn't you feel
22 kind of silly to go before your council, meeting after
meeting, to try to justify bills for chlorine, salaries
and wages, the energy to pump the sewage, the repairs
of the sewers and the sewer outlet, when you're the
only town on the river between Battle Creek and the
mouth that treats their sewage in any manner whatsoever?

ADAMS: Phil, I would say this: You might feel a little silly
23 about it, but there is a very good legal reason why
you should continue to treat your sewage and do the
best you can. In other words, what one fellow does,
doesn't excuse another.

HOFFMAN: Maybe we better close it down, and see what happens.
24 That will bring it to a head.

BEAUVAIS: We've thought of doing it.
25

ADAMS: It takes engineers, and it takes money, it takes
26 science and know how, and the practical means of
solving such problems as we have here to get relief
from the river.

TEED: Mr. Adams, I think Mayor Todd's suggestion may not be a
27 bad one. It may be that such a river study committee
would result in moulding public opinion to the point
where it would be easier for your commission, easier
for the communities involved, to proceed with a
program of pollution control.

ADAMS: I think you hit something there. We want them to get
28 into this river in a boat this summer and see just why
the oxygen all sinks.

(MORE)

(ADAMS - CONTINUED)

Every natural stream has got to have a certain proportion of that dissolved oxygen in the water to maintain a good stream. You take that out by waste lead, and everything is gone. The only thing you've left is the ability to float a boat and that isn't very pleasant sometimes.

HOFFMAN: You can't even float a boat on it anymore. I left my
29 boat in the river and it ate the bottom out of it.

ADAMS: The Commission will be meeting shortly to hear what
30 Mayor Todd has to offer. The people have to vote the money, you know. And they're not always inclined to take what some fellow up in Lansing says is necessary, but if a Committee of their own people find out that we're not just talking nonsense, and they so report to their people, it should help a lot.

(MUSIC: _ _ IN AND UNDER)

CAGNEY: So, the men from Allegan agreed to wait a little longer -- if the Water Resources Board decided that some postponement and further study was in the best interests of all concerned.

(MUSIC: _ _ OUT)

Not that Milton Adams was temporizing with the acuteness of the problem. For later that same day -- March 27, 1951 -- he had a heart to heart talk with another committee, this one representing the management of the paper mills -- Dwight Stocker, James Wise, Frederick Fischer and Roman Suess.

ADAMS: Well, gentlemen, I would say there is a crisis, and I
31 think you all realize -- you, Jim and the rest of you
here -- that the Commission has got to take some action
on this problem.

STOCKER: It's not an easy problem; I think you realize that.
32

ADAMS: Yes, Dwight, I think I'm quite cognizant of that.
33

WISE: Milt, I wonder if people understand that there are
34 these eleven mills on the Kalamazoo River from a point
just upstream from Kalamazoo to Otsego some 15 miles
downstream.

ADAMS: Probably not.
35

WISE: And that five of these eleven mills make printing
36 paper using as part of their raw material the better
grades of waste paper, that this waste paper is cooked,
washed and bleached, and in that process about one
third of the purchased weight of that waste paper is
lost, and that these are the wastes which are going
into the stream.

ADAMS: There's too much paper produced here in this little
37 area for this little river.

I've been frankly at a loss for years to know what the
river has done with all of this stuff that it has to
receive.

WISE: Well, some 10,000 people are working in the paper mills
38 of Kalamazoo and contributing to the economic stability
of the community, and the five de-inking mills make
about 400 tons of pulp a day, and the average growth
of wood in the forests to make this much pulp for a
year would require about 250,000 acres.

ADAMS: I realize that, Jim ...
39

WISE: I realize that we can't in turn make a disagreeable
40 mess out of our stream in so doing, but it is true
that the process itself conserves our forests.

FISCHER: Some of the mills feel that the economic burden may be
41 almost unendurable if we get into this thing in too
elaborate a scale.

ADAMS: Somebody has got to give on this thing, and we've got
42 to look to more accomplishment on the part of the mills
than we've had in the past.

SUESS: Our problem at Otsego is somewhat different, ours being
43 a neutral sulphite mill. This far there is no known
solution to our pulp mill wastes, so that we would
require time and effort for a study to solve the
problem in our case.

ADAMS: Well, now, I'll tell you, Roman, we don't think it's
44 quite fair for industry to bring in a new process and
not know how to take care of the waste that goes along
with it.

WISE: Isn't it true, Milt, that generally speaking, rivers
45 become more highly industrialized downstream, whereas
in the case of the Kalamazoo River, that stream is
highly industrialized upstream, and then has a run
through a wilderness downstream which makes the
subject much more pertinent to those people who are
trying to develop vacationing and outdoor sports.

ADAMS: That's very true, Jim, and that is a complicating
46 factor. But we didn't pick out this location for these
Kalamazoo paper mills, and there isn't anything in the
law that puts any different handling of this problem
than problems that we encounter elsewhere.

STOCKER: Milt, we're not talking about disease-carrying
47 pollution. It's industrial waste. It's a nuisance rather than anything that might carry disease.

ADAMS: I think that's true, Dwight.
48

We feel that the municipalities are responsible for about 95 per cent of the bacterial loading on the streams, but we have to hold the mills responsible for about 95 per cent of the solids and nearly that high percentage of the oxygen demand loading, forgetting entirely the bacterial part of it.

I know you, Dwight, have been working on experimental waste disposal over a period of years.

STOCKER: We have been working, trying to find out several things:
49 How much waste we have to treat; how we're going to do it, what we accomplish, and then what we're going to do with the material that we take out. We started back in 1947 and first put the pilot plant in back of the mill at the Michigan Paper Company.

WISE: It was only until the National Council for Stream
50 Improvement came to Kalamazoo and the work started at the Michigan Paper Company and then later was operated cooperatively among all the de-inking mills that we really started to get anywhere on methods of removal of these wastes.

STOCKER: It was based on the research work that was done by the
51 National Council for Stream Improvement under Dr. Philip Morgan, and we took a very small amount of our waste on a continuing basis and ran it through this plant.

ADAMS: Yes, Dwight ...
52

STOCKER: And then a year later, with quite a little prompting
53 from you, Milt, the Kalamazoo River Improvement
Company was established. The members included all of
the de-inking mills on the Kalamazoo River.

ADAMS: The de-inking type of mills have a peculiarly difficult
54 problem, but it's seemed to us in this preliminary
form of order that we've got to require those mills to
remove all of the freely settleable solids and get
their machine waste loadings down to five or ten pounds
per ton of product.

WISE: You feel, do you, that your proposed order is a fair
55 compromise between the problems of the mills and the
interests of the downstream communities?

ADAMS: Well, let me put it this way, Jim. It's only going
56 to remove a portion of the biochemical oxygen demand
on the oxygen in the stream that we think eventually
has got to take place. But I think it makes a first
step in this program.

SUESS: We recognize that something must be done and we are
57 working on a recovery method. We have started a
project due to the encouragement of the State
Conservation Department to utilize what are commonly
called weed trees, and we feel it has great possibilities
for future paper making.

STOCKER: You know, that machine waste figure you just named is
58 no cinch. That's a tough one. Particularly on the
light weight papers.

ADAMS: We have to have it tough, Dwight. There isn't any
59 other way. That it seems to us is a necessary preliminary.

FISCHER: I think it will be interesting to have the citizen's
60 committee study the problem from an over all stand point of the interests of the community and the problem of the mills and see just how some of these problems can be worked out.

SUESS: In the meantime, we will certainly work on a solution
61 to the pulp mill problem.

(MUSIC: _ _ IN AND UNDER)

CAGNEY: So the mills were warned of what they might expect in the way of de-pollution orders in the Fall. Back in Kalamazoo, as Mayor Todd had recommended,

(MUSIC: _ _ OUT)

the city fathers authorized a study project, naming as its chairman Dr. Harold Taylor, director of the Upjohn Foundation for Economic Research. Through the summer of 1951 this committee worked toward some fair and reasonable way in which to relieve the sorely overloaded river. And in early Fall, Dr. Taylor and his colleagues faced the Water Resources Commission;

TAYLOR: Gentlemen, we have come today to report our conclusions
62 to you. We were extremely fortunate in being able to secure as our staff man Dr. Harold T. Smith, business manager of Kalamazoo College. I should like at this time to introduce Dr. Smith, and to ask that he review the highlights of the conclusions which our committee has reached. Dr. Smith:

- SMITH:
63 The Kalamazoo River is a small river serving an area of 2,000 square miles which is becoming more and more heavily populated and industrialized.
- CAGNEY: The chief industrial users, said Dr. Smith, were 15 paper mills located along 18 miles of the water course.
- SMITH:
64 In producing 200 tons of paper a day they dump something like 180 tons of solids into the river. Its condition has been worse than that of a well-controlled river of the lowest industrial classification in some of the eastern states. The lowest industrial classification always requires the presence of some oxygen. In three tests in 1950 there was no dissolved oxygen in the water over stretches of ten to twenty miles just below the city of Kalamazoo.
- CAGNEY: Not only can nothing live in such water, but under such conditions, quite literally, the river stinks. Only 150,000 people live along this valley Yet --
- SMITH:
65 The total oxygen demand load is equivalent to that produced by a normal population of 650,000 people -- that's how important the mills are.
- CAGNEY: Dr. Smith reviewed the long history of efforts to cope with the pollution, in studies by state agencies, in local laboratories, in experiments with the National Council for Stream Improvement.
- SMITH:
66 In 1950 they set up a demonstration plant which was able to take care of about a third of the waste from the Michigan Paper Company plant. The process was developed right here in this community.

CAGNEY: Sludge -- waste solids -- of no known value, is a particular headache of the de-inking mills, said Dr. Smith. Yet, if this useless stuff is not dumped into the stream and washed away --

SMITH:
67 It would have to be stored somewhere, and it has been estimated that it would require 13 acres of land piled five feet deep to handle this sludge for one year. It isn't known whether if it were piled somewhere it might not be a land nuisance that would be intolerable.

CAGNEY: Now -- as to what the committee recommended, or the Commission might issue as an enforcement order. Dr. Smith pointed out that the mills were of differing types, and what was required of them should be tailored accordingly. The mills had, in fact, been consulted, and had agreed to certain measures.

SMITH:
68 The straight board mills will put clarifiers or settling tanks at the end of the sewers and they will catch their wash water and their waste. They will turn it back into the mill and mix the solids back into the raw material and use it in making more board.

CAGNEY: For other mills with more complicated manufacturing processes, there could be no such simple solution.

SMITH:
69 What they probably will do first of all is to improve their internal systems and catch the waste and the wash water at each paper making machine, turn the waste back into their raw material for the next job, and thereby not depend upon clarifiers at the end of their sewers.

CAGNEY: Some of the mills -- the de-inking mills, especially, were going to have to spend some money.

SMITH: The costs might well add \$2.00 a ton to the price of
70 their paper and be a pretty important load on their economy.

CAGNEY: And as for the mill at Otsego Falls -- the one making pulp out of hard wood -- its waste wasn't solid, it was soluble, and couldn't be settled or filtered out. So --

SMITH: As a matter of fact, the commission's orders omitted
71 this mill, because there is no known way of taking care of their waste. So our study committee recommends that the orders be tailored to the situation and to the condition for each group of mills and try to program along with the mills how the removal of their pollution should take place.

CAGNEY: So much for the mills. But there was another part of the pollution story -- a chapter written by the cities themselves.

SMITH: The city of Allegan has its own disposal plant and the
72 Upjohn Company has its own disposal plant, and Battle Creek gives its sewage a primary treatment first, but otherwise all sewage from the area is dumped into the river in its raw state.

CAGNEY: Kalamazoo and the paper towns, with the enormous waste load from the mills as their excuse, were using the Kalamazoo river as an open sewer.

SMITH: The committee feels that the municipalities should
73 recognize the unsatisfactory condition of the river and should begin making plans immediately for the abatement of pollution without waiting to be placed under orders.

(MUSIC: IN AND UNDER)

CAGNEY: The mills got down to business - installing their filters and clarifiers and chemical washers and settling basins. (MUSIC OUT) And in Kalamazoo, a committee of citizens at last faced up to their own problem -- the peril to health that poured from their sewers into the polluted stream. The committee decided they had two alternatives. And here's the present mayor, Glen Allen, to tell us what they were.

ALLEN:
(74) We could simply say to the people -- here's a measure asking for a 'yes or 'no vote as to whether we should issue three million dollars worth of bonds to build a plant.

CAGNEY: A proposal which, without amplification, would be a certain guarantee of defeat.

ALLEN:
(75) Or we could be more courageous and frankly tell the people that if they did not vote for it the state would force us to do it. We decided to take the more courageous of those two alternatives.

CAGNEY: And how did they sell this proposition to the citizens of Kalamazoo?

ALLEN:
(76) We used a very interesting technique in public relations -- a 22 man and woman committee, with representatives from labor, from business, minority groups, the board of realtors, education, everyone from the president of our largest company down to the janitor in one of our small concerns. We asked this committee to review the facts, and if they chose to do so, to recommend a 'yes' vote.

CAGNEY: And, after a month of study, that's exactly what the committee did. And they put impact behind their opinion with an intensive publicity campaign. The result?

ALLEN:
(77) When the vote was counted, the people had voted to build a sewage disposal plant by eighty per cent to twenty per cent. A very phenomenal vote of approval.

CAGNEY: And because the community acted before the state forced them to do so, they got their bonds at a very low rate of interest.

ALLEN:
(78) And now that the plant has been built, we find that the actual costs ran about \$450,000 underneath our estimates. We have placed the \$450,000 in a special account to develop sewers in the territory which is being annexed to the city.

CAGNEY: And is the disposal plant meeting its purpose?

Here's Clarence Elliott, Kalamazoo's city manager.

ELLIOTT:
(79) Well, the state of Michigan required that 70 per cent of our solids be removed. Actually, our tests show that we are removing 70 per cent of the solids, and we add chemicals between May and September and remove 75 to 85 per cent.

CAGNEY: And, in the intervening years, what has the new purifying equipment accomplished at the paper mills? Not long ago, three paper mill executives met to compare notes on progress -- three of the men who four years ago had met with Milton Adams: Messrs. Stocker, Suess and Fisher.

STOCKER: Since the Mayor's Committee issued their report, a lot
(80) of money has been spent trying to improve the Kalamazoo River.

FISCHER: Dwight, I know that at our plant we've been having
(81) amounts running into several hundred thousand dollars, and I'm sure everybody has carried out the program in good faith, as far as they were able to.

STOCKER: I think we could say, Fred, more than six or seven
(82) million dollars, all right.

FISCHER: I think that practically everyone has wholeheartedly
(83) drawn up their plans on the schedule of dates required in accordance with the specifications laid down by the Water Resources Commission's engineers.

STOCKER: Our last treatment plant didn't go into operation until
(84) after our July fourth shutdown. We had to wait until we could make the tie-in.

FISCHER: I think now that practically all of the projects have
(85) just come in in the last few weeks.

SUESS: At the time of the Haven Hill meeting, the Commission
(86) did not have a proposed order on our pulp mill wastes because at that time it was an unknown quantity. We, of course, were one of the biggest violators in pollutional load.

FISCHER: I wonder if you could tell us about that, Mr. Suess?
(87)

SUESS:
(88)

We found a method cooking our wood so that the blinding qualities were left in the effluent. It proved so successful that we disposed of all our pulp mill liquor during the summer months when it was most harmful to the river as a road binder product to settle the dust on secondary roads and to bind the road materials. We were bettering our stipulation by the 12,000 gallons a day that we were permitted to discharge.

FISCHER:
(89)

Sometime during the next year or so it will become evident what the results are.

SUESS:
(90)

I believe that our solution during the critical months has been one of the greatest assets to improvement of the river that could have been accomplished.

(MUSIC: _ _ _ IN AND UNDER)

CAGNEY:

And, of course, there were the gentlemen from downstream Allegan -- the three who in 1951 had complained to the commission about the noxious, sludge-laden waters being sent their way.

(MUSIC: _ _ _ OUT)

We recently eavesdropped on them again, too. Leo Hoffman, Guy Teed, and City Manager Beauvais.

HOFFMAN:
(91)

Well, Phil, you're the city manager and you represent the city of Allegan and maybe you have some thoughts on whether the city or someone should do anything at this time about pollution in the river.

BEAUVAIS:
(92)

Well, I have felt that the summer that we just passed through has been a real test. Frankly, I've had no complaints regarding odors on the river.

TEED:
(93)

Well, I have, Phil.

BEAUVAIS:
(94)

The fish kill that we experienced -- I wouldn't say we could attribute that to the condition of the stream. It was intensely hot, and it's my opinion that the lack of water in the river coupled with the heat was responsible for that fish kill.

TEED:
(95)

Yes, but Phil, we're entitled to a clear stream, whether the water is high or low.

BEAUVAIS:
(96)

That's true, and we're entitled to the normal flow of that river at all times -- that's bothering me right now -- which has nothing to do with pollution, however.

HOFFMAN:
(97)

I think that quite a little has been accomplished, Guy -- at least it's my experience that we haven't had the odor this summer that we had two summers ago, and the river looks a little cleaner.

TEED:
(98)

Well, I feel that the people of Allegan are grateful for what has already been done, but I'm sure they're not going to be satisfied with conditions as they are today.

HOFFMAN:
(99)

I'll agree with you that there's still a lot to be done..

BEAUVAIS:
(100)

I do think, Leo, that if we accomplish nothing more than to keep that liquor from that pulp mill out -- 60 or 80 thousand gallons a day -- it certainly has been a big benefit to that stream.

TEED:
(101)

You remember, Leo the public meeting they held in Plainwell and the people there were wanting a clean river.

BEAUVAIS:
(102)

The municipalities on the river -- Kalamazoo, Parchment, Plainwell and Otsego -- they're building not only primary treatment such as we have here in Allegan, but they're building secondary treatment.

TEED: When will these plants be in operation?

(103)

BEAUVAIS: The Otsego plant is already in operation, and I expect the time isn't far off when Milt Adams is going to pay me a nice little call and acquaint me with the fact that we better get ourselves set to build secondary treatment for our little plant because they will be demanding it.

TEED:

(105)

Well, you know, Phil, we'll be ready to build our plant when the river is reasonably clean.

BEAUVAIS:

(106)

I had the privilege of attending the Otsego dedication ceremony a few Sundays ago and there was a representative of the Water Resources Commission present, and I detected in his comments an indication that the time isn't far off when they'll be making another study of this river, and in all probability come up with some additional orders.

HOFFMAN:

(107)

Well, you know I still have that law suit pending, but if they can clean up the river to our satisfaction, why I think we should wait.

BEAUVAIS:

(108)

I think we should keep right on the ball, but frankly, Leo, as far as I can understand, this Water Resources Commission got what they asked for, and they made it plain it was an interim order, and if that doesn't do the trick, I'm satisfied they're going back and ask for more, and I for one am willing to at least rest on our oars for awhile and see what happens.

(MUSIC: _ _ _ _ IN AND UNDER)

CAGNEY: And that's where it stands today -- an interim report on a people's campaign to clean the poison out of a stream on which their very lives depend.

(MUSIC: _ _ _ OUT)

The fight is far from won, and, indeed, there are still areas of controversy. Down in Allegan, Leo Hoffman says:

HOFFMAN: Some people have talked about the Kalamazoo River being (109) an industrial stream. Well, as far as I'm concerned, I want a clean river from Allegan down to Lake Michigan, so the people can swim in it and fish in it.

CAGNEY: Whereas, up in Kalamazoo, Dr. Harold Taylor observes:

TAYLOR: Much as a man may like fishing, good fishing is no (110) substitute for a good job.

CAGNEY: As to whether the Kalamazoo can ever be restored to a condition anywhere approaching its pristine purity, even Leo Hoffman admits...

HOFFMAN: Maybe that's impossible, but I think people are entitled (111) to that.

CAGNEY: With which no one would disagree. But the question is-- how many people? Can people continue to dwell in numbers along the banks of the Kalamazoo, and mitigate the mess that they themselves create in the inevitable processes of life and labor? Well, at least they've come to grips with it-- and they've made a start. This summer the voice of the people since 1833, the Kalamazoo Gazette, said editorially: "Kalamazoo River, within living memory a silver clear stream, may never again become ideal for recreational purposes, but at least its future seems brighter than at any times in decades.

(MORE)

CAGNEY:
(CONT'D)

Future generations may look back on the 1950's as the period when effective action was first taken to combat the pollution of our rivers. No one can be sure what the future holds. The Water Resources Commission says 'we'll have to evaluate it all to see what has happened'. But we can at least view with satisfaction the concrete steps already taken. Concentrating its first fire on the paper industry, the commission began demanding action. The paper industry, if apprehensive, tackled the problem with vigor. The commission has also brought pressure upon the cities, towns and villages to end their pollution of the stream with sewage. Thanks to research developments, the threat of closed mills and unemployment because of the river clean-up has disappeared, and at the same time, the prospects for industrial growth in the future have been greatly improved." So much for the words of the Kalamazoo Gazette. We began by saying that our story was about water and people. Nor is it uniquely the problem of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Dr. Harold Taylor put it to us like this:

TAYLOR:
(112)

The problem stems from growing urbanization and industrialization and this trend is certainly one which is evident in all the communities of the nation.

CAGNEY:

One thing is certain -- the people of Kalamazoo, or Cincinnati, or Kansas City, or Omaha, aren't going to disincorporate and desert their homes and factories and scatter to the winds. So --

TAYLOR:
(113)

In Kalamazoo we are gradually learning to take a balanced view on this issue. Industrialists are learning a lesson. They are learning that streams can become so overloaded as to be a public nuisance. They are taking the initiative in looking for ways to reduce the load. They're recognizing that even though the cost may be great, they must make every effort to keep the rivers out of the nuisance class. The mills will do all they can to improve conditions, and we in turn will not expect the impossible. The river must be used for the good of all the people, and we expect to continue working toward that goal.

(MUSIC: _ _ _ IN AND UNDER)

CAGNEY: This is James Cagney. Next week our story ..etc. etc...

cb/sh
12/12/55 pm

TODAY AND TOMORROW

"THE KALAMAZOO STORY"

CLOSING:

ANNCR: "Today and Tomorrow" is written and produced by Wade Arnold, and directed by George Voutsas. Tape editing by Louise Fogarty. Our thanks to Franklin Sisson, and WOOD, Grand Rapids, Michigan, for assistance in the field. This is NBC, the National Broadcasting Company.