

THE CRUSADING CHEMIST

by

Amanda Read

Based on the true story of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley

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FADE IN:

EXT. WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL - 1926 - DAY

A young REPORTER hurriedly walks up to the front door of the spectacular building. Evening is falling.

INT. WALDORF-ASTORIA MAIN LOBBY

An older, pensive gentleman stands by the clock. This is the businessman WALTER WILLIAMS.

The REPORTER enters, surprised to see only one person.

REPORTER

Pardon me, sir, are you attending
the dinner?

WALTER WILLIAMS

Are you?

REPORTER

Well, not exactly, but I plan on
being present.

WALTER WILLIAMS

Might as well follow me then.

INT. WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL DINING ROOM

The classy, sparkling room is filled with chatter.

WALTER WILLIAMS and the REPORTER walk up to the doorway of the room. OSCAR, the famous chef, walks by them briefly.

OSCAR

(to someone in the hall)
Yes, we'll move it right through
here. Did you think I would create
something that can't fit? Mr.
Williams, I didn't see you arrive!
Why aren't you at the table?

WALTER WILLIAMS

(smiles)
Never mind me, Mr. Oscar.

OSCAR rolls out an enormous white cake with at least 20
candles on it.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR

Dr. Wiley, come this way!

Still tall in his old age, the stately HARVEY WILEY rises from the head table, grateful, but almost melancholy.

His wife ANNA KELTON Wiley, an attractive blond lady at least 30 years younger than her husband, grabs his hand. He leans down to listen to her.

ANNA KELTON

It's only been twenty years,
Harvey. That's young for a law,
don't you think?

HARVEY WILEY

Then let's hope it earns respect
with age.

Seated at his other side is a bright fellow a little younger than him, W.D. BIGELOW.

W.D. BIGELOW

Tell them the whole story. They'll
listen.

The guests seated around the dining tables turn around, anticipating the speech.

OSCAR attempts to introduce his distinguished guests.

OSCAR

Ladies and Gentleman, well actually
the only people that know what this
celebration is all about are the
people that are here, so - Alice,
you're better at this.

The diners laugh. An elderly dressy lady, ALICE LAKEY, takes the stage.

ALICE LAKEY

Thank you, Oscar. We are here to
acknowledge the 20th Anniversary of
the passage of the Pure Food and
Drug Law, a most valuable asset in
our history for protecting the
health of the people. With us
tonight is the brilliant gentleman
who wrote and enforced the act, Dr.
Harvey Washington Wiley, also his
wife, Anna, and two sons, Harvey
Jr. and John.

ALICE LAKEY gives a thoughtful glance to ANNA KELTON and the two boys seated beside her, HARVEY WILEY JR., age 14 and JOHN WILEY, age 12.

ALICE LAKEY (CONT'D)

Welcome Dr. Harvey Wiley.

Applause. A PHOTOGRAPHER snaps a photo of OSCAR, ALICE LAKEY and HARVEY WILEY with the cake.

At the back of the room...

REPORTER

Do you mind telling me who you are, Mr. Williams? I mean, what do you have to do with him?

WALTER WILLIAMS

(stares at him with surprise, then realizes...)

You're barely in your twenties yourself, aren't you? That man was ahead of his time. But the more obvious it becomes that he was right, the less people listen to him. That doesn't happen to most scientists and inventors and the like...

HARVEY WILEY

It would be impossible and perhaps unnecessary to survey the whole field of effort which led to the enactment of the Food and Drugs Law.

His style of speaking is as enrapturing as ever.

At the back of the room...

WALTER WILLIAMS

...and I can tell you why.

HARVEY WILEY

Twenty years have elapsed since the law was passed, and - if I can state it as briefly as possible - will recall the events that led to the complex yet ignored history. When there is so much progress, people tend to forget.

EXT. SORGHUM GROWERS' CONVENTION IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI -
DECEMBER 1882 - DAY

SUPER: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 1882

A crowd of gentleman farmers are gathered together in the chilly weather to listen to the convention speakers. The current speaker is a younger, keen and dark-featured HARVEY WILEY.

HARVEY WILEY

And thus my first venture into the sorghum sugar industry started with a little package of seed sent to us by a Congressman in our district of Indiana. My father wasn't inclined to experiment with things, but I soon found experimenting to be my niche.

The crowd laughs.

HARVEY WILEY

I hope my presentation has done justice to the field of science for you. Honest science is not incompatible with anything practical - especially not the agricultural industry. Simple observation always indicates the way things should or shouldn't work.

A man bearing a serious mien and graying sideburns is watching HARVEY WILEY with interest. This is United States Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. GEORGE B. LORING.

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D)

As a chemist, my job is to present research that will help improve our country's economic industries, and, more importantly, health.

INT. FOYER OF MANSION

GEORGE B. LORING steps into the long foyer hallway, observing the mansion gradually filling with delegates. The HOST, a prominent citizen of St. Louis, greets him.

HOST

Commissioner Loring! Welcome, Sir. I'm glad you were able to attend. The convention was very well done.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE B. LORING
Thank you for the invitation and
yes, I think the convention came
off very well.

HARVEY WILEY stands in the distance, discussing with other
delegates.

HOST
Ah, well seeing how you were able
to come all the way from
Washington, D.C. it was bound to be
a successful event.

GEORGE B. LORING watches HARVEY WILEY intently, and motions
in his direction.

GEORGE B. LORING
Yes - pardon me, sir but may I ask
a favor of you?

HOST
Hm? Oh, certainly.

GEORGE B. LORING
See the good looking young
gentleman over there? The tall
fellow - he's the State Chemist of
Indiana.

HOST
Oh, you must be referring to Harvey
Wiley.

GEORGE B. LORING
Could you have him seated across
from me? I want to discuss
something with him.

INT. DINING ROOM

HARVEY WILEY is seated across the table from GEORGE B.
LORING.

GEORGE B. LORING
I was impressed by your speech. Are
you still teaching chemistry at
Purdue?

HARVEY WILEY
Yes, it's been about nine years
now.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE B. LORING

I've heard about your work against food adulteration. That topic has been overlooked by physicians, hasn't it?

HARVEY WILEY

Well, medicine has little claim in being scientific these days.

GEORGE B. LORING

Oh?

HARVEY WILEY

Take diet for instance. No one said anything from a scientific view point about diet to me while I was studying medicine. The public is led to believe phony ads and propaganda regarding medicine while remaining ignorant of the basic principles of health. It is ridiculous to me. The nation is on its way to becoming spoon fed with adulterated foods and drugs.

GEORGE B. LORING

I understand your disgust, Dr. Wiley. I'm quite impressed by how much you have brought to light. Our current Chief Chemist has considered food laws.

HARVEY WILEY

Wouldn't that be excellent? For the entire nation to have its industries secured from those practices?

GEORGE B. LORING

Yes. If only our Chief Chemist had a more objective study of the sugar industry...

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

GEORGE B. LORING (V.O.)

I have found just the scientist for Washington, Mr. President.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

President CHESTER ARTHUR listens to the enthusiastic Commissioner of Agriculture GEORGE B. LORING.

CHESTER ARTHUR

Oh have you? With credentials to replace Dr. Collier?

GEORGE B. LORING

That and more. He is thoroughly professional, has a depoliticized view of scientific research and such character - very clever and amiable.

EXT. THE ROADS LEADING TO PURDUE UNIVERSITY - 1883 - DAY

HARVEY WILEY rides an old Harvard Roadster bicycle - large front wheel, small back wheel - through the streets of Lafayette, over the bridge across the Wabash and up to the University.

As the bicycle glides over the ground, carriage horses are spooked, people turn their heads...and professors look on with a scowl.

INT. PURDUE CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM

HARVEY WILEY lectures his students.

HARVEY WILEY

Chemistry, put simply, is the study of chemicals. As all earthly things are ultimately made up of chemicals, some of you logicians will probably try to convince me that chemistry is thus the study of everything on earth. (*Students laugh*) No wonder scientists have a hard time agreeing with each other! Remember, the thinkers you must prepare to outwit are the ones that think so hard they try to make sense out of nonsense and nonsense out of sense! When I was a chemistry student, the formula for the perfect chemistry experiment came to mind during one boring day at the lab. (*Reading*) "'Chemico Metrical Madrigal': I know a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)
*maiden, charming and true, with
beautiful eyes like the cobalt blue
of the borax bead, and I guess
she'll do if she hasn't another
reaction..."*

MR. DOBBLEBOWER, an anxious, wide-eyed university Trustee, suddenly enters the room. He is surprised to find such laughter amongst a chemistry class. So much, in fact, that his important self is unnoticed.

HARVEY WILEY
(Reading)
*"Her hair is a crown, I can
truthfully state, 'tis a meter
long, nor curly nor straight and it
is as yellow as plumbic chromate in
a slightly acid solution..."*

MR. DOBBLEBOWER
Dr. Wiley!

HARVEY WILEY
(after the classroom goes
reverently silent)
Hello, Mr. Dobblerbower. Do you need
me for something?

MR. DOBBLEBOWER
When your...lecture is through,
report to the Board of Trustees
Building.

INT. BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUILDING

HARVEY WILEY enters with a jovial air, slightly taken aback by the grim countenances of the trustees.

There is an awkward silence. Finally MR. DOBBLEBOWER arises.

MR. DOBBLEBOWER
The disagreeable duty has been
assigned to me to tell Professor
Wiley the cause of his appearance
before us. We have been greatly
pleased with the excellence of his
instruction and are pleased with
the popularity he enjoys among his
pupils. We are deeply grieved,
however, at his conduct. He has put
on a uniform and played baseball

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MR. DOBBLEBOWER (cont'd)
with the boys, much to the discredit of the dignity of a professor. But the most grave offense of all has lately come to our attention. Professor Wiley has bought a bicycle. Imagine my feelings and those of other members of the board on seeing one of our professors dressed up like a monkey and astride a cartwheel riding along our streets. Imagine my feelings when some astonished observer says to me, "Who is that?" and I am compelled to say, "He is a professor in our university!" It is with the greatest pain that I feel it my duty to make these statements in his presence and before this board.

HARVEY WILEY barely restrains his hilarity.

HARVEY WILEY
(somber as possible)
Gentlemen, I am extremely sorry that my conduct has met with your disapproval. I desire to relieve you of all embarrassment on these points. If you will give me pen and paper I shall proceed to do so.

The trustees look on with surprise and curiosity as he writes out a resignation statement. He hands the note to Secretary JOHN A. STEIN.

HARVEY WILEY
Good day, sirs.

HARVEY WILEY turns away from them and exits the room while holding back laughter.

INT. PURDUE UNIVERSITY - HALLWAY

He pulls a letter from GEORGE B. LORING out of his pocket.

HARVEY WILEY
Washington, here I come.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

The atmosphere of the national capital is astonishingly archaic as the 19th century is nearing its close; a virtually unrecognizable city with the exception of its political landmarks. The streets are wide and open, with only horse drawn carriages and a few streetcars present for transportation. Policemen patrol the streets on foot while women and children shop the outdoor food markets.

GEORGE B. LORING (V.O.)
This will be your laboratory...

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

Quiet, professional and organized, reflecting the scientific and political essence of the Victorian Era.

GEORGE B. LORING
The most important laboratory in the country, as a matter of fact.

HARVEY WILEY
I'm sure it's the best I could ever work in. The last time I had the opportunity to work in anything close to this caliber would have been the Imperial Health Laboratory in Germany.

HARVEY WILEY walks towards the window and looks outside at the Washington landscape.

HARVEY WILEY
I'm still surprised at your offer, Commissioner Loring. I could barely handle university politics. What makes you think I can handle national politics?

GEORGE B. LORING
(laughs)
Few people think they can, Dr. Wiley, which is why we end up with the same group of people here for decades. Just do the scientific work you love. Don't worry about congressmen.

INT. SENATE

SUPER: 15 YEARS LATER

A Senator faces the rest of the Senate with the energy of a conductor.

SENATOR ZEB VANCE

Are we going to let ourselves worry
over the work of cranks and
"reformers" with no business sense?
These rare people across the
country hope to make this an issue,
but to what avail? Mr. President,
the Conger Lard Bill is dead. 'Tis
Grease, but living Grease no more!

The Senators roar with laughter. In the Senate Gallery stands a younger WALTER WILLIAMS, speaking with his attorney friend, ELLIOTT GROSVENOR.

WALTER WILLIAMS

They think it's a joke as much as
we do. There won't be another
person with enough nerve to invent
a food law in this city!

INT. WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL DINING ROOM - 1926

At the back of the room...

WALTER WILLIAMS

That wasn't the only time I was
wrong. But it didn't matter yet.

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY LABORATORY - 1898

HARVEY WILEY, clean-shaven and somewhat more aged, watches over his apparatus in the government laboratory.

HARVEY WILEY (V.O.)

Along with my other duties as Chief
Chemist, I tried to maintain the
fight for reforming the practices
in the food and drug industries.

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ROOM

HARVEY WILEY is going through stacks of paper and discussing with the stately REPRESENTATIVE MANN of Illinois, SENATOR McCUMBER of North Dakota and SENATOR HEYBURN of Idaho.

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D - V.O.)

I made good friends in Congress.
But we were repeatedly outnumbered.

INT. SENATE

HARVEY WILEY watches from the gallery as SENATOR McCUMBER argues for their cause. Then SENATOR HEYBURN takes the stand.

SENATOR HEYBURN

We may extend our lines as a country; we may build battle ships and navies and constitute great armies; but if the health of the people is to be undermined by these concoctions of fraudulent and bogus medicines, of what avail is it?

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D - V.O.)

There seemed to be an understanding between the two Houses that when one passed a bill for the repression of food adulteration...

INT. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Speaker of the House pounds his gavel.

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D - V.O.)

...The other would see that it suffered a lingering death.

REPRESENTATIVE MANN gives a weary glance to HARVEY WILEY, who is watching the session.

INT. CHIEF CHEMIST OFFICE

HARVEY WILEY is seated at his desk. A young man enters in a hurry, apparently a fellow of genius that is trying to catch up with himself. This is W.D. BIGELOW, HARVEY WILEY's First Assistant.

(CONTINUED)

W.D. BIGELOW
Here it is, Dr. Wiley - all present
and accounted for. Bulletin number
13.

W.D. BIGELOW accidentally slams the door behind himself.

W.D. BIGELOW
Ah - sorry, that creaky old door
never keeps up with me. Anyway, I
also found a page of that phony
patent medicine advertising you
mentioned. "Pink Pills For Pale
People", "Brain Fude" - and to
think that manufacturers only sell
them because people keep buying
them! What are you doing?

HARVEY WILEY
(pulling out maps from the
shelf)
Planning out our itinerary.

W.D. BIGELOW
Itinerary?

HARVEY WILEY
Gaining ground with politicians is
a long shot at the moment. But we
can still talk to the businessmen.
Maybe we can convince some of them
to reform their practices without
government oversight.

W.D. BIGELOW
Meaning?

HARVEY WILEY
We're going to the Cannery
Convention.

W.D. BIGELOW
(not excited)
Oh. That sounds...thrilling.

EXT. CONVENTION CITY STATION, ATLANTIC CITY - DAY

Tense, stormy looking. Everyone is in a hurry for something.
W.D. BIGELOW follows HARVEY WILEY, carrying brief cases
stocked with bulletins. A PERSON IN CROWD runs into him and
then passes by without a word.

(CONTINUED)

W.D. BIGELOW

Well, pardon me - (*picking up
the brief cases*)

Whom are we supposed to meet here?

HARVEY WILEY

Mr. Fraser. There he is.

HARVEY WILEY greets MR. FRASER, who bears a troubled expression.

MR. FRASER

I'm glad to see you, Dr. Wiley.

HARVEY WILEY

Ah, yes, Mr. Fraser. I'm glad I can attend. Are you alright, sir? What's wrong?

MR. FRASER

I am frightened for your safety. If you will take my advice I will excuse you from the meeting this afternoon and you can take the first train back to Washington.

HARVEY WILEY

(sobered for a moment)

And this is a meeting of American citizens?

MR. FRASER

Yes.

HARVEY WILEY

Well, I have never been mobbed, and perhaps it would be an experience worth having; but I am willing to trust myself to a body of American businessmen.

MR. FRASER

Well then, if you insist...

INT. SESSION HALL

MR. FRASER, HARVEY WILEY and W.D. BIGELOW arrive at the large hall, via the back way, where the sessions are held. The place is packed, and they have to edge their way to the platform. A BURLY MAN with a scowl on his face claps his hand on HARVEY WILEY's shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

BURLY MAN

We won't do a thing to you!

HARVEY WILEY

I hope not. (to W.D. BIGELOW) You go stand along that wall behind the audience until the presentation.

W.D. BIGELOW

Good idea.

HARVEY WILEY turns to MR. FRASER.

HARVEY WILEY

I am scheduled to speak first, am I not?

MR. FRASER

No - I mean, you are, but you shouldn't be. That's an antagonistic audience you'll be speaking to.

After the first speaker steps down, the PRESIDING OFFICER introduces HARVEY WILEY - in a somewhat tremulous voice.

PRESIDING OFFICER

For the first time at our annual Western Packers' Canned Goods Association meeting, I will now introduce the...the Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, Dr. Harvey W. Wiley.

Dense silence fills the room - not a single hand clap or murmur - as HARVEY WILEY steps up to the platform to give his extemporaneous speech.

HARVEY WILEY

Is there a man in this audience who would put his hand in his neighbor's pocket, take a dollar from it and put it in his own pocket?

Not a single hand goes up.

HARVEY WILEY

Is there a man in this audience who would so adulterate, so degrade and so misbrand a package of his goods as to cheat the consumer out of a dollar of his money when he bought

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)
that package? If so, hold up your
hand.

Not a hand is raised. A member in the rear of the hall
claps. The whole audience begins applauding earnestly.
HARVEY WILEY gives a relieved sigh.

HARVEY WILEY
The canning business, like all
other businesses, will be vastly
improved by a code of ethics which
will exclude from interstate
commerce any materials made of
decayed products, or debased in any
way, or misbranded as to character
and quality...

INT. NATIONAL CONFERENCE - WASHINGTON, D.C.

SUPER: NATIONAL PURE FOOD AND DRUG CONGRESS HELD IN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Voices, voices...bustling, chairs being dragged to their
places at the table in the dimly lit yet suitable conference
room. HARVEY WILEY, with W.D. BIGELOW at his side, is seated
with the delegates at the long table with a starched white
table cloth. MR. WEDDERBURN calls attention.

MR. WEDDERBURN
As we are here in Washington, allow
me to introduce our chief advocate
in Washington. Chief of the Bureau
of Chemistry, Dr. Harvey Washington
Wiley.

A young man, suave and respectable yet somewhat shady
looking, sits at the back of the room at a small separate
table. This is SOLICITOR McCABE*, sitting across from JASPER
WILSON, a close friend of his about the same age.

HARVEY WILEY
Thank you, Mr. Wedderburn. I am
encouraged to see such rigorous
support for this act nationwide.
Malpractices in the business of
selling food have been present for
centuries for money gain; such as
mixing flour with dry plaster,
diluting milk and using artificial
coloring in tea.

**This character will be known as "SOLICITOR McCABE" throughout the script though at this scene he is still "clerk".*

MONTAGE - EXT. INDUSTRIAL DAIRY - DAY

Several cows are shoved into the large doorway of the milking parlor.

HARVEY WILEY CONT'D (V.O.)
Ironically, as scientific knowledge increases,

INT. INDUSTRIAL DAIRY

HARVEY WILEY CONT'D (V.O.)
the frauds are becoming both more discreet and more sickening in industrialized nations. Toxic preservatives such as formaldehyde in milk,

A worker standing by a large tub of boiling milk reaches for a bottle with the label, "FORMALDEHYDE".

INT. CANNING FACILITY

HARVEY WILEY CONT'D (V.O.)
sulfate of copper to enhance the green color of canned vegetables, and sodium benzoate, borax, salicylic acid, sulphites and alum will soon be mixed into almost every processed food on the market possible.

Several workers stand at the counter mixing chemicals: a flask of cobalt SULFATE OF COPPER artificially enhances the color of green beans. SODIUM BENZOATE and ALUM, toxic white powders, are handled as liberally as salt and sugar.

INT. FLOUR MILL

HARVEY WILEY CONT'D (V.O.)
To increase the shelf life - and thus the profit of - bread, its natural nutrition is bleached from the flour.

Originally wholesome, creamy white flour is ground and filtered repeatedly until no hue of golden grain is left...a CHILD struggling to carry a bag of flour trips. The sack bursts open to reveal GHOSTLY WHITE BLEACHED FLOUR.

INT. KITCHEN

HARVEY WILEY CONT'D (V.O.)
Oleomargarine is being considered
an equal substitute for genuine
butter.

A knife slices through ripply WHITE MARGARINE.

INT. GROCERY STORE

HARVEY WILEY CONT'D (V.O.)
Of course, manufacturers know that
their products would not be
purchased if they accurately
labeled what was in them, so
misbranding is rampant.

On the grocer shelf stand rows of cans and bottles that are labeled impressively for customers.

INT. TOWNHOUSE KITCHEN

HARVEY WILEY CONT'D (V.O.)
The phony patent medicine industry
is yet another problem. Fraudulent
labels claim that the bottle's
contents can heal anything, though
it really holds mixtures of weak
and sometimes dangerous chemicals.

A WOMAN opens the cupboard to reveal rows of prestigious looking bottles harboring thin, clear liquids.

INT. NATIONAL CONFERENCE - WASHINGTON, D.C.

HARVEY WILEY
In conclusion, mass produced food
and drug adulteration is the
greatest hazard of our modernized
industrial era. So far there has
been too much argument about the
effect of chemical preservatives on
health. I propose to find out by
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)
scientific experimentation what is
the truth about a question of such
vital concern to the consumers of
the nation. Some day we will have a
law.

Suddenly, SOLICITOR McCABE is standing at the end of the
main table where there is no chair. All attention turns
toward him.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
Well, after that gruesome account,
I should let you know that many
scientific positions actually
suggest otherwise. There really
isn't anything to fear. I am a
lawyer from the Department of
Agriculture. As such, I do not
think that the Chief Chemist's law
proposition is viable.

SOLICITOR McCABE and HARVEY WILEY make eye contact.

HARVEY WILEY
(looks puzzled, then speaks
bluntly)
Sir, the entire reason for
Washington - for the Department of
Agriculture - for law - is to
protect the health and safety of
the people. What is so
inviabile about that?

SOLICITOR McCABE's pride is hurt.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
Law is my domain, Chief Chemist.
Why are you attempting to justify
yourself on my ground?

SECOND DELEGATE
Well, there you go.

DELEGATE
Wait a moment!

SOLICITOR MCCABE
I know how the government
approaches such things and a
national law on such a subjective
issue could be disastrous. A
separate government program devoted
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOLICITOR MCCABE (cont'd)
to this cause would be better -
unless you first consult me on the
matter before moving any further.

HARVEY WILEY
Government is for oversight, not
micromanagement. Bureaucracy will
only move our work further away
from its purpose!

INT. CHIEF CHEMIST OFFICE

HARVEY WILEY is pacing his office. W.D. BIGELOW is
organizing a tray of clean test tubes and flasks.

HARVEY WILEY
Can you believe this fellow had the
nerve to say that "other"
scientific studies suggest
otherwise as if they're more
credible? He actually considered
arguing that!

W.D. BIGELOW
Everyone knows that those studies
are bogus. The manufacturers pay
them to praise their products. You
shouldn't let that get to you.
You're the highest ranking chemist
in the country, and come to think
of it, you are rapidly becoming
wealthy...

HARVEY WILEY
Hm? I'm not sure I would say
rapidly, Bigelow. Besides, it's
dangerous to bring money into this
debate.

W.D. BIGELOW
There is no sense in being wealthy
if you don't spend a little
somewhere. Maybe invest is the
better word. I don't know. Anyway,
what do you plan to do with your
excess income?

HARVEY WILEY
I've been considering that myself.
I think I have rounded it down to
three outlets. I might buy a farm,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)
or an automobile. Or perhaps even
get married.

W.D. BIGELOW
Really? Why haven't you ever
married, Dr. Wiley?

HARVEY WILEY
If you are the way I've been so
far, with your work being your main
priority in life, then you should
not burden a wife and children with
your self-absorbed absence.

W.D. BIGELOW
I wouldn't call you self-absorbed.

HARVEY WILEY
(looking through his desk drawers)
I know what a family is supposed to
be like. If blessed, settle for
nothing less. Not to change the
subject, but this bureaucracy is
taking its toll. It seems I can't
find any worthwhile transcripts.

W.D. BIGELOW
You need to get a stenographer.

An energetic older fellow enters the room. This is MR. E.C.
CUTTER.

MR. E.C. CUTTER
We are moved. Come and see the new
library.

MR. E.C. CUTTER scurries out. HARVEY WILEY rises to follow
him.

HARVEY WILEY
I'll be back in a moment.

W.D. BIGELOW
You know he's probably moved a
ton's worth of books up there.
Don't blame me if the ceiling falls
through.

INT. IMPROVISED LIBRARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The library room is light and airy. It would appear that no one is present, except for the sound of a few light footsteps from behind one of the book cases.

As HARVEY WILEY and MR. E.C. CUTTER come through the doorway, an elegant and youthful blond, blue-eyed woman walks out from behind one of the bookcases, apparently absorbed in a book. This is ANNA KELTON. HARVEY WILEY catches sight of her and is smitten, as she brings "Chemico Metrical Madrigal" to his mind.

HARVEY WILEY (V.O.)

(echoing)

I know a maiden, charming and true,
with beautiful eyes like the cobalt
blue of the borax bead...

MR. E.C. CUTTER

Oh, everyone is used to the floor
creaking a little. As you can see,
I had to clear it out a good deal
and -

HARVEY WILEY

(hushed voice)

Stop a moment!

He seizes MR. E.C. CUTTER's arm and takes another look at ANNA KELTON, who, as she is looking for the correct shelf to place the book, is oblivious to the men.

HARVEY WILEY

(undertone)

Cutter, I intend to marry that
girl!

MR. E.C. CUTTER, surprised and amused, straightens his spectacles and looks at the girl.

MR. E.C. CUTTER

(undertone)

Don't you think you had better be
introduced to her first?

HARVEY WILEY

(undertone)

No, that won't change my purpose.
You can't turn me off by a little
thing like that; she is going to be
my wife. She's my ideal, which I
thought didn't exist on this earth.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)
Embodied in my Harvard verses,
"Chemico Metrical Madrigal".

MR. E.C. CUTTER
(undertone)
Perhaps it would be well for you to
meet this young lady before
proposing matrimony.

MR. E.C. CUTTER walks towards ANNA KELTON.

MR. E.C. CUTTER
May I assist you, Miss Kelton?

ANNA KELTON responds with amusement.

ANNA KELTON
Oh, the questions you men ask! Here
I am assisting you in library
science and you make an offer as
though you can find a solution so
much more efficiently...

HARVEY WILEY (V.O.)
When she speaks from parlor or
stump, the words which gracefully
gambol and jump sound sweet like
the water in Sprengel's pump in
magnesian phosphate ablution.

MR. E.C. CUTTER gives a smiling glance to HARVEY WILEY.

MR. E.C. CUTTER
Well now, Anna, I would like you to
put the book aside for a moment and
politely greet the man who so
courteously permitted us to use his
bureau as a library - Miss Anna
Kelton, this is Dr. Harvey Wiley,
Chief Chemist of the Department of
Agriculture.

ANNA KELTON suddenly takes notice of him, and responds
almost bashfully as he approaches them.

MR. E.C. CUTTER
Dr. Wiley; Miss Anna Kelton.

ANNA KELTON extends her hand gently.

ANNA KELTON

It's a pleasure to meet you, Dr. Wiley.

HARVEY WILEY

I'm glad to meet you, Miss Kelton.

MR. E.C. CUTTER

Pardon me a moment, Anna. Now what was it you needed, Dr. Wiley?

HARVEY WILEY

Oh, well, I need some stenography done in my Bureau. Do you know of someone I could employ?

MR. E.C. CUTTER

Miss Kelton is well skilled in stenography.

ANNA KELTON

Me? Oh, Mr. Cutter...

MR. E.C. CUTTER

It's not going to be my decision, Anna. Go take a look at what this scientist needs done.

INT. SECRETARY WILSON'S OFFICE

There stands by the window of his office the venerable SECRETARY WILSON; his hair and beard fully white. His pleasant speech is distinctively Scotch; his manner completely successful, agitated by nothing. SOLICITOR MCCABE and JASPER WILSON are seated.

SECRETARY WILSON

But after all, he is my chemist just as you are my lawyer. I am expected to respect advice from both of you when I make decisions.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

And my advice to you, Secretary Wilson, is that Dr. Harvey Wiley is still a questionable character.

SECRETARY WILSON

Questionable?

(CONTINUED)

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Just think - the Bureau of Chemistry is attempting to take on a legal battle.

JASPER WILSON

He has a point there, father. I'll bet we're the only Department without a Solicitor.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

It goes to show you how the Department of Agriculture will have many problems without any legal management. In fact, your Department has yet to win a case, Mr. Secretary. On top of that you have a Chemist with imbalanced gravitas. His ideals can't possibly succeed now. He is out dated in his political craft.

SECRETARY WILSON gives him a confused stare.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Don't feel bad about being confused, Secretary -

SECRETARY WILSON

Well then, I'll handle Dr. Wiley later. At the moment I need to focus on this Cuban Reciprocity issue. I don't know how I'm going to face Roosevelt on the matter. He's a driven man; doesn't let anyone put a road block on his plans. After being Secretary of Agriculture for two Presidential administrations, I'd be sorry to lose my cabinet position over a silly issue like this.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(suddenly enlightened)

Why not let the outspoken Dr. Wiley stand before the committee in place of you? He is knowledgeable about sugar agriculture. He got the position of Chief Chemist because of his sorghum farming experience, didn't he? This will give him the opportunity to exercise practical politics.

(CONTINUED)

SECRETARY WILSON

That's right! How insightful of you. Well then, I'll see what Sereno Payne has to say about it...and I think you would make a very good Solicitor, Mr. McCabe.

SECRETARY WILSON exits, leaving SOLICITOR McCABE very pleased.

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING - DAY

As ANNA KELTON leaves...

HARVEY WILEY

I don't mean to interrupt your current work, but if the position is of any interest to you, perhaps you can consider.

ANNA KELTON

Thank you for the offer, Dr. Wiley. I will.

MR. E.C. CUTTER

Oh and Anna, don't forget to incite your darling mother to invite us for dinner!

ANNA KELTON

(laughs)

You know she will, Mr. Cutter.

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY FOYER

HARVEY WILEY slowly returns inside, watching her depart through the building windows, and younger Bureau workmen waving goodbye to her.

Dressed like a proper Victorian maid, the charwoman MRS. GIRARD looks up from wiping down the shelves.

MRS. GIRARD

Have you ever met the Keltons, Dr. Wiley?

HARVEY WILEY

No.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. GIRARD

Very fine people. Lovely family.
Mrs. Kelton has been a widow for
some time now, and has seven
children.

HARVEY WILEY

Now that I think about it, I
haven't taken the time to meet many
fine people. Excepting my field of
work, of course.

MRS. GIRARD looks slightly surprised as HARVEY WILEY's
countenance begins to dull and he leaves the room.

EXT. STREET FRONTING THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY - DAY

ANNA KELTON is quiet and demure, yet heads turn as she
passes by the late 19th century society of Washington.

A flighty, vivacious and fashionable girl about her age
steps out of a stage coach. This is VIVIAN MALLORY, engaged
in animated discussion.

VIVIAN MALLORY

I will not sit here and be forced
to listen to every pathetic theory
as to how we made complete fools
out of ourselves!

A young man hops out behind her. This is her slightly
younger brother, EDWARD MALLORY, who is setting aside the
carriage door that just came unhinged.

EDWARD MALLORY

We did not have to take this coach.
You're the outrageous one, Vivian.
I didn't want to go anywhere.

VIVIAN MALLORY

Edward! There you go again -
(suddenly happy) Oh Nan!

VIVIAN MALLORY runs toward ANNA KELTON.

ANNA KELTON

Why, hello Vivian! What have you
been up to?

VIVIAN MALLORY

I would rather walk, believe it or
not, than take that shabby

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN MALLORY (cont'd)
carriage. Well, you look awfully
smug to have been organizing
agriculture books in a makeshift
library all day.

ANNA KELTON
Well, as a matter of fact, I won't
be doing that much longer.

VIVIAN MALLORY
Ooh, than you've made it to the
fabulous Library of Congress.

ANNA KELTON
Not quite.

VIVIAN MALLORY
Hmm...let me guess. You were chosen
to give secretarial aide a stalwart
young politician that will one day
lead America to greater
greatness...or something to that
effect.

ANNA KELTON
Haha, not exactly. I'm working for
a - scientist.

VIVIAN MALLORY
Ugh, oh Nan not one of them.

ANNA KELTON
(laughs)
What's wrong with scientists?

VIVIAN MALLORY
All the questions they take pride
in answering are questions they've
made up themselves. Mysteries of
the universe? Scandalous...Anyway,
he isn't wasting away on monkey
business, is he? Pun intended, of
course.

ANNA KELTON
I doubt it. He's a chemist. Chief
Chemist of the Department of
Agriculture, Dr. Harvey Wiley.

INT. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE'S OFFICE

HARVEY WILEY is present, speaking to SECRETARY WILSON, who is seated at his desk.

HARVEY WILEY

Me? If I go up there I shall tell what I believe to be the truth and thus get into trouble! You know that I have been working in the interests of producing our own sugar. I am sure to antagonize the President if I give my opinion on Cuban sugar duty. Please ask Mr. Sereno Payne to recall my summons to appear.

SECRETARY WILSON

(gives a hesitant, rather disapproving stare)

I am just as much opposed to this legislation regarding Cuban Reciprocity as you are but being a member of the President's Cabinet I dare not say anything.

HARVEY WILEY

Mr. Secretary, are you willing to have me incur the President's displeasure when I am only a subaltern? You believe I am right and you ought to see Chairman Payne and get me excused.

SECRETARY WILSON

(rising from his chair)

Keep in mind, Dr. Wiley, that perhaps no one will make mention of the Cuban Bill at the Ways and Means Committee. I insist - and trust - that you will go.

EXT. KELTON FAMILY'S HOUSE - R STREET - DAY

The homes right outside the depths of Washington, D.C. still have spacious lots and room for tending little garden plots, etc.

ANNA KELTON opens the gate of the picket fence surrounding the Kelton family's large and welcoming federal style house. AH SOON, a middle-aged Chinese man, trots across the green lawn with a reel mower. Two boys are seated on the porch

(CONTINUED)

steps; WILLIAM KELTON, age 13 and ATLEE KELTON, age 11, trying on new pairs of roller skates.

ANNA KELTON

William and Atlee! Where did you get those outlandish things?

The maid, an older black lady named SARAH JENKINS, comes from the backyard with a basket of eggs.

SARAH JENKINS

Aren't those the silliest things you ever laid eyes on? Ah Soon, you didn't help.

AH SOON

You ladies make too big a deal of such things.

Another Chinese man, AH YOU, is repainting part of the fence.

AH YOU

Who ever heard of shoes with wheels causing trouble?

WILLIAM KELTON

We'll only try them out around here.

ATLEE KELTON

At least until we're really good at it.

ANNA KELTON

(smiling as she walks inside)
Atlee, you daredevil...

INT. KELTON FAMILY'S HOUSE

ANNA KELTON quickly rushes through the foyer to the kitchen where her mother JOSEPHINE KELTON, a gentle woman of Scandinavian descent, and elder sister, MARY KELTON are setting out ingredients for baking.

JOSEPHINE KELTON

Well, Nan - are you excited or worn out?

ANNA KELTON straightens her hair and washes her hands.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON

Both - or perhaps neither.

JOSEPHINE KELTON

Nothing too out of the ordinary?

MARY KELTON

Did you see Vivian today? She always has something new to say.

SARAH JENKINS enters and begins kneading a large lump of dough.

ANNA KELTON

Yes. Stagecoach malfunction and all. She walked halfway here with me. Oh, and mother, when was the last time we invited Mr. Cutter over?

JOSEPHINE KELTON

Oh, it's been too long since we've done anything with the Cutters. Mr. Cutter hasn't been over since you started working for him, has he?

SARAH JENKINS

It's a very serious thing you know, a young lady taking a job. You can't work for a strange man. We have to know him first.

ANNA KELTON

You're right...that means we need to invite Mr. Cutter and Dr. Wiley over for dinner.

JOSEPHINE KELTON

Dr. Wiley?

WILLIAM KELTON and ATLEE KELTON run in and each grab an apple off the counter.

ANNA KELTON

Oh, don't worry Mother - his office is still in the Bureau building. In fact, he's the Chief Chemist of the Bureau. Mr. Cutter recommended that I do some stenography and secretarial tasks for him. He has lots of science work going on...

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM KELTON

We're going to have a scientist
over for dinner?

ANNA KELTON

Oh, William stop it -

MARY KELTON

Yes, you're interrupting.

ATLEE KELTON

An important chemist?

JOSEPHINE KELTON

Go on out boys, supper will be
ready in a little while.

WILLIAM KELTON and ATLEE KELTON sulk off, but impishly not
really that offended at all.

JOSEPHINE KELTON

You're interested in this position,
Anna?

ANNA KELTON

Yes, oddly enough. I don't know
why, there isn't anything wrong
with the library...

MARY KELTON

I thought your dream was the
Library of Congress.

ANNA KELTON

Well I didn't say this is my dream,
Mary. But something about this
opportunity seems right somehow.
It's just a change of scenery, I
guess.

INT. WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

Echoing chatter and clapping from a broad audience fills the
high-ceilinged committee room. Some entering, some exiting;
the crowded gallery of observers look up at the raised
platform to watch the committee debate, which appears to be
closing.

REPRESENTATIVE SERENO PAYNE

We are grateful for your
presentation, Dr. Wiley. You may be
excused from the committee.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HARVEY WILEY rises from the table and walks toward the door.

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON
Wait a minute, Mr. Chairman. I want
to ask Dr. Wiley a question.

HARVEY WILEY pauses with a slight hint of reluctance,
sensing what is coming.

REPRESENTATIVE SERENO PAYNE
Oh? Very well then, return for a
moment, Dr. Wiley.

SOLICITOR McCABE watches from the doorway, looking cool as
possible to hide his enthusiasm. He is distracted for a
moment by...

ANNA KELTON
Mr. McCabe? Why stand there when
there are plenty of seats?

SOLICITOR MCCABE
I'm fine.

ANNA KELTON joins the audience. HARVEY WILEY takes the
witness stand once again.

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON
Dr. Wiley, what do you think of the
desirability of passing this
pending legislation respecting a
rebate of a part of the duty on
Cuban sugar?

HARVEY WILEY
I consider it a very unwise piece
of legislation and one which will
damage, to a very serious extent,
our domestic sugar industry.

The crowd begins an uneasy murmur. A famous artist in the
audience, AUGUSTUS HEATON, intrigued by HARVEY WILEY's
boldness, takes up his pen and paper.

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON
You have read the report of the
Secretary of War?

HARVEY WILEY

Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON

And the recommendation of the President?

HARVEY WILEY

Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON

And General Wood?

HARVEY WILEY

I have not read that, but I have heard of it.

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON

You do not agree with them in the recommendations in respect to the treatment of Cuba on this question?

HARVEY WILEY

I do not.

HARVEY WILEY's glance wanders to the audience. To his surprise, he recognizes ANNA KELTON as she pleasantly greets a few members of the crowd while walking to the front row. As she looks up at the committee she happens to see him looking directly at her. Her countenance almost drops completely, as though she feels she somehow interrupted.

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON

I ask you this, doctor, for this reason: Do you contemplate remaining in the Agricultural Department? Is that your idea?

Shaky laughter rises among a few, including MR. RICHARDSON.

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON

You need not answer if you do not wish. I ask simply because I have heard that you did not.

Tension builds up in the committee. HARVEY WILEY, though somber, is becoming amused by the fast paced debate.

REPRESENTATIVE SERENO PAYNE

You need not answer that question, doctor.

(CONTINUED)

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON
Not unless he wishes to.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS
I do not think that is proper.

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON
I do not want him to answer it
unless he is willing to do so!

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTSON
That has not anything to do with
the case -

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON
The object of my question is just
this, Mr. Chairman, as I am frank
to state, and he need not answer it
if he does not wish to do so: I
have understood that the doctor
contemplated leaving the
Agricultural Department and going
into the sugar beet industry.
Whether that is true or not I do
not know.

HARVEY WILEY
It is the very first I have heard
of it. I thought the gentleman
implied that I would be removed
because I did not agree with the
Secretary or the President.

Laughter fills the room as HARVEY WILEY leaves. As he scans the crowd for ANNA KELTON, AUGUSTUS HEATON greets him at the door and slips a note into his hand with a wink. HARVEY WILEY begins to read it as he steps out into the hall, not noticing that SOLICITOR McCABE is watching him from the doorway. ANNA KELTON steps out of the room and into the hallway after him.

ANNA KELTON
Hello, Dr. Wiley.

HARVEY WILEY
What a pleasant surprise to see you
here, Miss Kelton.

ANNA KELTON
When I heard it was open to the
public I couldn't turn down the
opportunity. The Ways and Means
committee is too entertaining to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON (cont'd)
 pass up. Others must have thought
 so too (*glances at SOLICITOR
 McCABE, who pretends he isn't
 listening*).

HARVEY WILEY
 (laughs)
 Did you see Augustus Heaton, the
 artist? He left me this epic poem:
 "A chemist both learned and witty
 came before a sugar committee, and
 O such statistics and learned
 linguistics he poured upon
 Recipro-city."

ANNA KELTON
 (laughs)
 You certainly did. That Mr. Heaton
 is hilarious. Will you come over
 for dinner tomorrow evening? My
 family is just dying to meet the
 famous Dr. Wiley.

HARVEY WILEY
 I wouldn't pass up that
 opportunity.

ANNA KELTON
 (laughs)
 You might find them to be even more
 entertaining than the Ways and
 Means committee.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

A firm, masculine hand grabs a pen and circles the name
 HARVEY WILEY on a newspaper headline. The man behind it,
 bespectacled and stern in expression, is President THEODORE
 ROOSEVELT. Standing at his desk is the now worried SECRETARY
 WILSON.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
 Dismiss that man Wiley immediately!

SECRETARY WILSON
 Mr. President, Dr. Wiley didn't go
 up there willingly and begged me to
 have his subpoena recalled. Dr.
 Wiley is very valuable to the
 Department and your Administration.
 This issue isn't worth sacrificing
 such a capable scientific man.

(CONTINUED)

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

So he's a good chemist. And you let him make a decision on commerce?

SECRETARY WILSON

Mr. President, I advised Dr. Wiley to go and give the facts of the case which he did in a very satisfactory manner, in my opinion, and it was only by a strange incident that he was compelled to say that he opposed this legislation. I am to blame as much as Dr. Wiley in this matter.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

I will let you off this time, but don't do it again.

INT. KELTON FAMILY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

HARVEY WILEY and MR. E.C. CUTTER are dining at the Kelton's table for supper.

MR. E.C. CUTTER

Dr. Wiley saw a good bit of the world before he came to Washington. He even served in the War between the States.

ATLEE KELTON

Really?

HARVEY WILEY

I remember when I was one year shy of being eligible to sign up. My father was very strict with me about honesty, so I wasn't about to lie about my age. But the officers took one look at me and decided that a fellow that could grow that big in less than eighteen years ought to be defending the country.

Laughter.

JOSEPHINE KELTON

You are the youngest of seven children?

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

Second youngest.

ANNA KELTON

I'm actually third youngest in our family.

JOSEPHINE KELTON

Yes, these are my last four at home. We lived in California for awhile; my husband was Adjutant-General of the U.S. Army.

HARVEY WILEY

My eldest sister lives in California.

MR. E.C. CUTTER

She's one of the first American women doctors, as a matter of fact.

ANNA KELTON

Oh yes! Elizabeth Corbett is his sister.

HARVEY WILEY

My siblings and I grew up on a farm in Indiana.

MARY KELTON

That's where you get your agricultural roots. Seems like everyone a generation before ours grew up on a farm.

ANNA KELTON

You mentioned how excellent many citizen's lives were before the war. (*teasing smile*) Do you consider the countryside to be heaven as opposed to the corrupt city, Dr. Wiley?

HARVEY WILEY

(playing along)

Ah, you can't get me to take that bait. There is no way either can be made into heaven on earth. It's like chemistry, a delicate equation that must be balanced. If you can attain a healthy lifestyle no matter where you are situated there's not much of an issue. But

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)

I'll admit that I have begun to see a decline in health amongst city dwellers because they are so dependent up manufacturers.

JOSEPHINE KELTON

How can we protect ourselves while there is no law?

HARVEY WILEY

Oh, there are ways of identifying adulterated food. Perhaps I should teach your daughter at the laboratory, and then she can teach you.

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

HARVEY WILEY examines milk bottles; one pure, the other adulterated with formaldehyde. ANNA KELTON observes from behind him and takes notes.

HARVEY WILEY (V.O.)

(echoing)

A biochemist loved a maid...

INT. AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY MEETING

SUPER: American Chemical Society

HARVEY WILEY is speaking at a sophisticated gathering of chemists, all of which are chuckling at his scientific poetry.

HARVEY WILEY

In pure actinic ways...

INT. CHIEF CHEMIST OFFICE

ANNA KELTON is transcribing every word HARVEY WILEY dictates. W.D. BIGELOW enters to speak with HARVEY WILEY but fails to get his attention.

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D - V.O.)

(echoing)

The enzymes of affection made a ferment of his days...

INT. CONSUMERS' LEAGUE MEETING

ANNA KELTON is speaking to a group of women alongside ALICE LAKEY on behalf of the pure food act.

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D - V.O.)
*The waves emergent from her eyes
 set symphonies afloat...*

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D - V.O.)
*These undulations simply struck his
 fundamental note...*

HARVEY WILEY is tidying up the lab equipment. W.D. BIGELOW interrupts his thoughts.

W.D. BIGELOW
 Are you sure Secretary Wilson is
 planning on seeing the laboratory?
(Strides toward the windows)

HARVEY WILEY
 This is where he is supposed to
 meet us. He should be here any
 moment.

W.D. BIGELOW
*(seeing their company
 approaching outside)*
 Oh, great.

HARVEY WILEY
 What now, Bigelow?

W.D. BIGELOW
(sarcastically)
 He's bringing your favorite lawyer
 along with him.

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY LABORATORY - A MOMENT LATER

SOLICITOR McCABE, cynical as ever, watches the hands of HARVEY WILEY and SECRETARY WILSON clasp as they greet each other.

SECRETARY WILSON
 Now Dr. Wiley, since neither of us
 are legally trained, I have decided
 to enlist a lawyer for advice.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SECRETARY WILSON (cont'd)
Namely, Mr. George P. McCabe,
Solicitor of the Department of
Agriculture.

HARVEY WILEY
You're *Solicitor* McCabe?

SECRETARY WILSON
You two are somewhat acquainted?

HARVEY WILEY
Vaguely.

SECRETARY WILSON
(strolling about the lab)
Well now, explain to me your cause
and idea.

HARVEY WILEY
I have researched this issue of
health since the 1870's. My
observations and experience as a
chemist since then have confirmed
that the diet of our contemporary
public is in decline. It doesn't
take long to trace that to our mass
industrialized food and drug
market. I think that we must make
these businesses accountable to the
people.

SECRETARY WILSON
And your conclusion is that of a
nationally enforced law?

HARVEY WILEY
(glancing at SOLICITOR McCABE)
Yes, that's where the challenge
lies. You see, my position requires
me to research for the benefit of
the nation...

SOLICITOR MCCABE
Your position requires you to
improve the practices in your own
field and has nothing to do with
the decisions of businessmen.
You're a chemist. Your decisions
deal with subjective ideals.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

No they do not. Every objective scientist knows that these industry practices are fatal nonsense.

SECRETARY WILSON

(tapping a lab flask out of curiosity)

Surely you will arrive at a productive agreement.

W.D. BIGELOW

(To SECRETARY WILSON)

Ah, ah - please don't touch that, sir.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Dr. Wiley, concern for the health of the people is one thing, but a national law is another.

HARVEY WILEY

(walking behind his lab table next to W.D. BIGELOW)

Do you really think so? The only way to rein careless industries in is through law. They have to be, as so many citizens are dependent upon them. My intention is to prevent mass poisoning now and for future generations. That is not subjective to my opinion alone.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Once again you are attempting to define the influence of my vocation to match your standards.

HARVEY WILEY

If that's the case at all then we're fairly even.

SECRETARY WILSON

(after a brief silence)

Does that mean you agree for once?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

I intend to use law to guard against real and obvious threats. Possible early death due to possibly harmful foods and drugs doesn't fit in that category.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

Health is our nation's most valuable yet least regarded asset. That is where its strength lies. Nevertheless (*lifts a chemical filled beaker as though proposing a toast*), you might have a point there, Mr. McCabe. Welcome to the laboratory of a scientist. I believe in trying it on the dog.

W.D. BIGELOW stares at HARVEY WILEY in denial.

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING - DAY

HARVEY WILEY walks down the steps as W.D. BIGELOW steps out the front door and runs to catch up with him.

W.D. BIGELOW

Dr. Wiley, I know we are scientists by profession, not politicians. So our task, naturally, is to communicate our discoveries in a medium they can understand. But...

HARVEY WILEY

Science is very trying on the human nature. It requires you to examine evidence honestly without exerting your own agenda.

W.D. BIGELOW

Yes, but still...

HARVEY WILEY

After all, how would you best understand the effect of chemicals on the human body than to experiment on humans themselves?

W.D. BIGELOW

(making sure no one is listening)

That's brilliant, but Dr. Wiley, no one has ever carried out a serious long term experiment on a living person before.

HARVEY WILEY

Exactly, and neither have such chemicals been carried out by manufacturers on living people

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)
before. So, what would you classify
as the most stably robust human
specimens - those that represent
the maximum resistance to
deleterious foods?

W.D. BIGELOW
Young men, sir.

HARVEY WILEY
Solicitor McCabe just about fits
into that category, but I suppose
we can't risk injuring our lawyer,
now can we?

W.D. BIGELOW laughs.

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING - DAY

ALICE LAKEY is walking past the Bureau with ANNA KELTON.

ALICE LAKEY
I'm so glad I met you, Miss Kelton.
I had pestered Dr. Wiley for months
to get information for the
Consumers' League.

ANNA KELTON
I'm glad I was able to help.
(*looking in her purse*) Where are
those transcriptions?

ALICE LAKEY
Did you leave them in the Street
Car?

ANNA KELTON
(panicking)
I don't know!

ALICE LAKEY
I'm sure they will turn up soon.
Perhaps you left them in the desk.

ANNA KELTON
But I was certain...Oh, never mind,
you're probably right. It's been
nice meeting with you, Miss Lakey.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE LAKEY
Take care, Miss Kelton.

INT. CHIEF CHEMIST OFFICE

ANNA KELTON enters in a hurry, then pauses hesitantly.

ANNA KELTON
Dr. Wiley...

HARVEY WILEY
(Looking up from his work)
Is there something wrong?

ANNA KELTON
Oh, I don't know what happened. Dr.
Wiley, I'm sorry, I'll never work
here again if it will make your job
better.

HARVEY WILEY
(slightly amused)
Well it can't be that bad.

ANNA KELTON
I can't find the transcriptions,
Dr. Wiley. They're missing - I
don't know what to do - they
weren't in my desk...

HARVEY WILEY
Anna...

ANNA KELTON responds with a surprised stare.

HARVEY WILEY
Do you mind if I call you Anna?

ANNA KELTON
(thoughtfully)
No, not really.

HARVEY WILEY
You might as well call me Harvey
instead of repeating Dr. Wiley over
and over again.

ANNA KELTON
Sir! That is much too informal.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

Well I've only been called Dr. Wiley ever since I set foot in Washington, so someone ought to call me by my first name so I won't forget it. As for the transcriptions (*Sighs*) well, we shall have to do them over again.

ANNA KELTON

Really?

HARVEY WILEY

That won't be too hard for you, will it?

ANNA KELTON

No, not at all, but that's it?

HARVEY WILEY

Well it is the only viable solution providing the originals aren't found.

ANNA KELTON

Who ever thinks about the only viable solution anymore? I mean, aren't you angry?

HARVEY WILEY

Is this a situation worth investing emotion in?

ANNA KELTON

You have every reason to be outraged in my opinion. You amaze me, Doctor. You really aren't the cranky and intimidating Chief that politicians want to make you out to be.

HARVEY WILEY

Rarely is anything really what politicians want to make it out to be.

EXT. STAGE - NIGHT

A stout, comical, mustached man wearing a tall hat and oversized shoes steps in the spotlight with a very serious impression, apparently caricaturing President Theodore Roosevelt. The audience laughs as minstrel music starts to play.

(CONTINUED)

LEW DOCKSTADER

(singing)

*If ever you visit the Smithsonian
Institute, look out that Professor
Wiley doesn't make you a recruit.*

INT. POISON SQUAD DINING ROOM

Twelve young men are seated around a few tables. HARVEY WILEY sits at the head of one table, weighing out samples of food on his scientific scale while W.D. BIGELOW hands preservative-filled capsules to EDWARD MALLORY, who is a member of the experimental team.

LEW DOCKSTADER (SINGING CONTD - V.O.)

*He's got a lot of fellows there
that tell him how they feel, - they
take a batch of poison every time
they take a meal.*

INT. POISON SQUAD KITCHEN

The cook, a well-dressed black man named WILLIAM CARTER places trays of the experimental food on a trolley and wheels it out of the kitchen...

LEW DOCKSTADER (SINGING CONTD - V.O.)

*For breakfast they get cyanide of
liver, coffin shaped, for dinner
they get undertaker's pie all
trimmed with crêpe;*

INT. POISON SQUAD DINING ROOM

WILLIAM CARTER places the food on the table for the unimpressed Poison Squad members.

LEW DOCKSTADER (SINGING CONTD - V.O.)

*For supper - arsenic fritters,
fried in appetizing shade, and late
at night they get a prussic acid
lemonade!*

INT. WHITE HOUSE

SECRETARY WILSON hands THEODORE ROOSEVELT a report of the Bureau of Chemistry experiment. The President examines it with interest and gives a surprised look over his shoulder to SOLICITOR McCABE, who stands behind them; arms folded and shaking his head with indifference.

(CONTINUED)

LEW DOCKSTADER (SINGING CONTD - V.O.)
*O they may get over it but they'll
never look the same. That kind of
bill of fare would drive most men
insane.*

EXT. STAGE - NIGHT

LEW DOCKSTADER continues dramatically...

LEW DOCKSTADER
(singing)
*Next week he'll give them
mothballs, à la Newburgh or else
plain;*

INT. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE'S OFFICE

LEW DOCKSTADER (SINGING CONTD - V.O.)
*O they may get over it but they'll
never look the same!*

HARVEY WILEY is present, evidently having been summoned by SECRETARY WILSON, who has his trusty SOLICITOR McCABE sitting next to him.

SECRETARY WILSON
(holding up "The Washington
Post" featuring fantastic
headlines about the Poison
Squad)
What is the meaning of this?

HARVEY WILEY
You've read it for yourself,
haven't you?

SECRETARY WILSON
(reading)
*"Quite inexplicable to the
scientific mind, each of the young
men undergoing the heroic course of
treatment has blossomed out with a
bright pink complexion that would
make a society belle sick with
envy," and get this one, "there was
one fellow at the observation table
who had a complexion when he first
came to the bureau like one of the
57 varieties. Now his own girl
wouldn't know him. He's got a skin*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SECRETARY WILSON (cont'd)
like the inside of a strawberry. We call him Miss - but I can't tell you his name. Anyhow he doesn't like to be called Miss."

SOLICITOR McCABE is smirking at the bewildered HARVEY WILEY.

SECRETARY WILSON
So this government experiment is known as "The Poison Squad" now? Dr. Wiley, I know you are restless about getting government accountability over this issue, but such sophomoric publicity is unbecoming to your profession and to Washington. Don't you agree, 'Old Borax'?

HARVEY WILEY
I have nothing to do with this! I don't know where such silly ideas are coming from.

SECRETARY WILSON
Well, you haven't worked hard enough to stop it.

HARVEY WILEY
I will now. Is that all you had to tell me?

SECRETARY WILSON
For the moment.

HARVEY WILEY
Good day, Mr. Secretary.

HARVEY WILEY quickly exits.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
Come to think of it, Wiley is our most critical and exacting chemist. Perhaps he would be a good jury member at the World Exposition. It would give him a break from the lab in Washington.

SECRETARY WILSON
How insightful! I was trying to decide who should go.

(CONTINUED)

SOLICITOR MCCABE
Send him immediately then.

INT. CHIEF CHEMIST OFFICE

HARVEY WILEY is reprimanding the ambitious cub reporter
GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN. W.D. BIGELOW is present.

HARVEY WILEY
You can't keep telling everyone
this nonsense.

GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN
But it's my job! I have to keep the
people informed.

HARVEY WILEY
It's not information if you've got
the facts all wrong.

W.D. BIGELOW tries not to laugh during the schooling.

GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN
People like news.

HARVEY WILEY
By all means, young man, what do
you think news is?

GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN
News is...the same story told in a
new way each day. To give the
people a new perspective. That's
why we call it news.

W.D. BIGELOW
(breaking the silence)
I thought it was a new story told
in the same way each day.

HARVEY WILEY
(still staring at the fellow
in disbelief)
I'm not sure I like the direction
the press is going in. Oh well,
there's nothing new under the sun.
Tell you what - if you can curb
your creativity within reason, I'll
let you observe our experiments and
write about them for the public. If
you're going to write anything it
might as well be accurate.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN
What a swell idea, Dr. Wiley!
(*shaking hands*) Thank you, I'll
take note of every detail!

The telephone rings.

HARVEY WILEY
(answering it)
Hello? Secretary Wilson?

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING - DAY

A group of Reporters line up at a basement window. It is the window to the kitchen of "The Poison Squad". ANNA KELTON and VIVIAN MALLORY watch the scene as they approach the building.

ANNA KELTON
I'm not sure this is a good idea,
Viv. I still feel bad about losing
those transcriptions...

VIVIAN MALLORY
Oh get over it, Nan. I'm sure Dr.
Wiley thinks no less of you than he
already did. Besides, my brother
Edward is a member of the Poison
Squad. That gives us double
privilege to snoop.

INT. LABORATORY KITCHEN

WILLIAM CARTER teases the snooping reporters. He looks over pots of meat and vegetables cooking, and then at the spread of chemicals divided up in doses according to HARVEY WILEY's measuring.

WILLIAM CARTER
Hmm...now, I don't know. You might
be trying to get some confidential
information. Why are you asking me
what poison's being put in this
menu? You tell me, you're probably
eating it every day.

The reporters aren't very amused.

WILLIAM CARTER
Of course, maybe this is because
you know not any average cook can
fill this scientific position.

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING - DAY

ANNA KELTON and VIVIAN MALLORY walk behind the group just as W.D. BIGELOW steps out the back door by the window, apparently thinking at first that it was the quieter way out.

ANNA KELTON
Oh, Hello - Dr. Bigelow!

W.D. BIGELOW
Miss Kelton?

ANNA KELTON and VIVIAN MALLORY meet up with him.

REPORTER
Dr. Bigelow? Where?

INT. LABORATORY KITCHEN

WILLIAM CARTER
Yeah, everyone go jump on Bigelow!
(Laughs)

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING - DAY

The group begins to move towards the back door.

ANNA KELTON
Oh, dear - my foolish mouth. I'm
sorry, Dr. Bigelow.

W.D. BIGELOW
Don't worry, come this way, ladies.
(to Reporters) For the last time,
I've got nothing new to tell you!

REPORTER
Just say something.

W.D. BIGELOW
Something!

W.D. BIGELOW, ANNA KELTON and VIVIAN MALLORY quickly hurry through the door.

INT. BACK FOYER OF BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY

W.D. BIGELOW shuts the door quickly before the irritated crowd gets to them.

ANNA KELTON
Oh, Miss Vivian Mallory, this is
Dr. Willard Dell Bigelow.

W.D. BIGELOW
Well my last name is distinctive
enough on its own, don't you think?

ANNA KELTON
Her brother is a member of your
experimental team, Dr. Bigelow.

VIVIAN MALLORY
I'm just so speechless at the
moment, aren't I? Pleased to meet
you, Dr. Bigelow.

W.D. BIGELOW
Nice to meet you, Miss Mallory.
Edward is your brother?

VIVIAN MALLORY
Yes. Where is the famous Dr. Wiley?

W.D. BIGELOW
He was in the dining room last I
saw.

VIVIAN MALLORY
Dining room?

W.D. BIGELOW
(Laughs)
I know that sounds strange, but
it's true. For the experimental
team - or "Poison Squad" as that
group out there calls it. Did you
come to see him?

ANNA KELTON
We should probably go now. I was
just letting Vivian get a glimpse
of the place.

VIVIAN MALLORY
Where do we have to go?

WILLIAM CARTER steps out in the hall.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM CARTER

Well, Bigelow - you took off and left the press none too happy! Pardon me, misses, I didn't mean to interrupt.

W.D. BIGELOW

I didn't have anything new to tell those people, Mr. Carter.

VIVIAN MALLORY

Well you have character, Mr. Carter - wearing a bow tie in a scientific kitchen.

WILLIAM CARTER

Thank you, ma'am. You know that I don't get many compliments serving poisoned food to boys all day long.

VIVIAN MALLORY

So Dr. Bigelow, what does a State Chemist such as yourself actually do in a project like this?

W.D. BIGELOW

(very scientific)

Well, the point of the study is to find out if the toxic preservatives commonly used in food are absorbed by the body and thus build up and cause health problems, or if they are harmlessly eliminated. We feed the volunteers the chemically modified products, monitor how they are affected and examine their...

W.D. BIGELOW pauses for a moment, remembering proper ladies are his audience. The women stare expectantly.

W.D. BIGELOW

Their...waste.

Discreet abashment.

WILLIAM CARTER

Don't look at me, that's why I stay in the kitchen.

W.D. BIGELOW

If you would like to wait for Dr. Wiley Miss Kelton, it won't be long I'm sure.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON

That's alright, I've taken up
enough of your time.

W.D. BIGELOW

Don't think that, you're a friend
of ours. Can I at least tell him
you called?

ANNA KELTON

If you insist, but there's nothing
to worry over.

VIVIAN MALLORY

She'll be at our house for the day.

W.D. BIGELOW

Oh! Just today Dr. Wiley was
assigned to the World Expo in
Paris.

VIVIAN MALLORY

That sounds exciting.

ANNA KELTON

What? Why was Dr. Wiley chosen?

W.D. BIGELOW

I can't say for sure - not sure if
I should say anything, actually,
but since you brought it up - I
think Solicitor McCabe has
something to do with it. He's
always wanted Wiley out of the way.

ANNA KELTON

That's awful. Though it isn't
surprising and...well, I suppose on
that bitter note we have to say
Goodbye, gentlemen.

VIVIAN MALLORY

Yes, tata 'till I find a day to
snoop on my Poison Squad brother.

INT. FOOD STANDARDS COMMITTEE ROOM

A page with the words, "FOOD STANDARDS COMMITTEE" printed at the top is placed on a stack of other such research papers by H.A. WEBER, who sits next to M.A. SCOVELL. Appearing like a pair of twin detectives, the two scientists are committed to helping HARVEY WILEY establish food standards.

(CONTINUED)

W.D. BIGELOW enters apparently with a message...

W.D. BIGELOW
Dr. Wiley -

HARVEY WILEY
(Looking up from a chart)
Look at this. The amount of
preservative consumed doesn't equal
the amount eliminated.

W.D. BIGELOW
You mean -

HARVEY WILEY
(nodding dismally)
It's confirming what I feared.
These toxic preservatives are
retained by the body.

W.D. BIGELOW
In the kidneys no doubt.

M.A. SCOVELL
Not good.

H.A. WEBER
The liver is also threatened most
likely.

HARVEY WILEY
(pacing about the room)
That is where the manufacturer's
minimal amount policy is completely
bogus. The damage is done over time
as the toxins build up and the
person ages.

M.A. SCOVELL
On top of that, every article of
processed food has roughly the same
amount of preservative, which
triples and quadruples your
exposure at every meal.

HARVEY WILEY
They still probably won't believe
me - these people have such
arrogance! Adding chemicals to
this, removing fats and vitamins
from that. You know there will be
genetic ramifications. Generations
in the future born and raised under

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)
this diet may be far worse off than
people being exposed to it now.

H.A. WEBER
You think they won't believe you?

W.D. BIGELOW
Well the only other verification
would be dissecting the men and we
can't do that...

HARVEY WILEY
And I'll be absent longer than I
wanted. Splendid timing. We're
going to need more help. Call Dr.
Rusby, the pharmacognosist, again.

W.D. BIGELOW
Certainly, and I meant to tell
you...

MRS. GIRARD enters and interrupts.

MRS. GIRARD
Pardon me, but Dr. Wiley, I heard
the telephone ringing in your
office.

HARVEY WILEY
Thank you for alerting me.
(*Hurrying out*) I wonder which
continent Wilson is sending me to
this time.

W.D. BIGELOW
...Miss Kelton came by a moment
ago.

HARVEY WILEY
(pauses only a brief moment)
Miss Kelton?

INT. MALLORY FAMILY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

VIVIAN MALLORY briefly flips through an old *Elsie Dinsmore*
novel before placing it on the coffee table.

VIVIAN MALLORY
You were in an awful hurry, Nan.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON
You've already reminded me of that,
Vivian...(pensive) The World
Expo...still, who in their right
mind would send him there now?

VIVIAN MALLORY glances out the window.

VIVIAN MALLORY
Edward must be home.

EXT. MALLORY FAMILY'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH

VIVIAN MALLORY and ANNA KELTON open the front doors. To their surprise, HARVEY WILEY and W.D. BIGELOW have come along with EDWARD MALLORY.

VIVIAN MALLORY
(immediately recognizing the
famous HARVEY WILEY - gasps)
You're...you!

EDWARD MALLORY, not feeling his best, shoves past his sister through the door.

EDWARD MALLORY
Don't pay any attention to her.

W.D. BIGELOW
Yes, Miss Mallory this is Dr.
Wiley. We were just making sure
Edward didn't faint on his way
home.

HARVEY WILEY
Or returning your call.

W.D. BIGELOW
Whichever sounds the most
believable.

VIVIAN MALLORY
Well, come right in!

HARVEY WILEY and ANNA KELTON linger on the porch a moment.

HARVEY WILEY
Anna, I have to let you know about
my recent assignment.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON

I heard. But why you? What about
The Poison Squad?

HARVEY WILEY

Bigelow will oversee it for me. He
has rare discernment, so he's
trustworthy. Hopefully I won't be
gone too long anyway.

ANNA KELTON

What about me? I mean, I assume I
won't be needed at the Chief
Chemist office...

HARVEY WILEY

The Library of Congress will
welcome you, no doubt. They would
have accepted you earlier had I
been able to let you go.

INT. MALLORY FAMILY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

W.D. BIGELOW and VIVIAN MALLORY are seated. EDWARD MALLORY
is lying on the sofa, pressing a cool compress to his
forehead.

W.D. BIGELOW

The feminine art is cooking
artistically, not scientifically.
Not that a lady couldn't learn, of
course, but we might not want her
to. Frankly, could you envision
cooking for a household after you
cooked poison meals for an
experimental team?

VIVIAN MALLORY

Well, I wouldn't want to have much
to do with the experimenting
anyway. Repose from the
battlefront, Edward?

EDWARD MALLORY

I could die from that merciless Dr.
Wiley's experiments and you
wouldn't even care.

ANNA KELTON and HARVEY WILEY enter.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

We ought to get back to the lab,
Bigelow. It was nice meeting you,
Miss Mallory.

EXT. MALLORY FAMILY'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH

As HARVEY WILEY and W.D. BIGELOW leave...

HARVEY WILEY

Our next task will be presenting
the data to Congressional
committees.

ANNA KELTON

Oh yes, if I remember correctly,
the language of the law said this
experiment was to enable Secretary
Wilson to "investigate".

VIVIAN MALLORY

And investigate he will!

ANNA KELTON smiles at HARVEY WILEY as she slowly closes the
door.

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ROOM - 1905 - MONTAGE

SUPER: Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

A long table, covered with papers slid in all different
directions, has a row of representatives on either side.

REPRESENTATIVE MANN

Do you understand that the Hepburn
bill absolutely forbids the use of
preservatives?

VICTOR VAUGHAN

No, sir; but I find that it puts
into the hands of one man or one
Department, at least, the question
of deciding as to the harmfulness
of preservatives.

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ROOM - 1905 - MONTAGE

REPRESENTATIVE TOWNSEND

As a manufacturer, do you know of any way to manufacture these goods and keep them as they have to be kept for sale, without a preservative?

WALTER WILLIAMS

I do not. But the use of benzoic acid will be condemned as soon as this bill becomes a law, if it ever becomes a law, and it will be condemned by the Bureau of Chemistry.

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ROOM - 1905 - MONTAGE

REPRESENTATIVE MANN

How much benzoic acid could one eat, day after day, year after year, without injury?

VICTOR VAUGHAN

A grain or two, I am sure, taken day by day for one's life, would not do any harm.

REPRESENTATIVE MANN

Do you mean one grain or two grains?

VICTOR VAUGHAN

One grain.

REPRESENTATIVE MANN

Would two grains do any harm?

VICTOR VAUGHAN

Well, I don't know. I would not like to set my dictum. I do not know enough about it.

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ROOM - 1905 - MONTAGE

REPRESENTATIVE MANN

Would it be your opinion that Congress could legally pass regulations that would authorize inspection and control, under those

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REPRESENTATIVE MANN (cont'd)
 circumstances, independent of the
 interstate-commerce clause?

SOLICITOR MCCABE
 (obviously not wanting to
 participate)
 There are so many constitutional
 lawyers now that I would like to be
 excused from being one.

W.D. BIGELOW, seated at the same table, rolls his eyes
 discreetly as he can bear it in frustration.

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ROOM - 1905 - MONTAGE

DR. ECCLES
 I don't think anything is
 deleterious. In other places, where
 the preservatives have been
 stopped, the death rate has risen.
 Two notable illustrations have
 occurred lately - exceedingly
 notable...

DR. ECCLES is rather irritating to the committee over all,
 especially W.D. BIGELOW and REPRESENTATIVE MANN.

DR. ECCLES (CONT'D)
 In North Dakota, the state of pure
 food - Senator McCumber's state
*(glances at SENATOR McCUMBER across
 the table)* they tried the
 experiment. In Germany,
 particularly in Berlin, they tried
 the experiment. I predicted the
 death rate would rise fifty percent
 in a year. Now, what are the
 official figures? They transcended
 my prediction; the deaths were
 nearly three times as many as they
 were during the same period the
 year before.

REPRESENTATIVE HEPBURN
 (the Chairman)
 From what cause?

DR. ECCLES
 I predicted it would occur if they
 stopped the use of preservatives,
 and it did occur just as I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DR. ECCLES (cont'd)
predicted from stopping the use of
preservatives. Nowhere in the world
did the death rate rise as it did
in Berlin, and nowhere in the U.S.
did the death rate rise as it did
in North Dakota.

REPRESENTATIVE HEPBURN
(noticing W.D. BIGELOW's
anxiousness)
Were you aware of this, Dr.
Bigelow?

W.D. BIGELOW
Those are phony statistics! The
study never happened. It's the
oldest trick in the book.

The Representatives are in uproar.

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ROOM - 1905

MR. KREMERS
I've been invited as a plant
chemist to research benzoic acid in
the plant kingdom and find the best
literature on the subject of its
effect on the human body.

REPRESENTATIVE HEPBURN
Is there an employment in
connection with this matter by you
professors?

MR. KREMERS
Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE HEPBURN
By whom?

MR. KREMERS
By Mr. Grosvenor.

REPRESENTATIVE HEPBURN
What Mr. Grosvenor?

MR. KREMERS
Of Detroit. Mr. Elliott O.
Grosvenor.

(CONTINUED)

REPRESENTATIVE MANN
Elliott Grosvenor?

W.D. BIGELOW
(undertone)
Walter Williams' lawyer.

REPRESENTATIVE MANN
Ahh...

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ROOM - 1905

WALTER WILLIAMS
I don't think this committee ought
to recommend any legislation that
will give one man the absolute
power...

SOLICITOR McCABE stands near the entrance of the room,
observing with a group of Department employees.

WALTER WILLIAMS
...to say what the manufacturers of
this country shall do and what they
shall not do. It's not fair. Before
you allow anyone to condemn any
preservative you ought to
investigate the subject fully by a
committee of scientists - the best
that we can find - appointed by the
President or Congress.

EXT. EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE - PARIS, FRANCE

SUPER: EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE, PARIS, FRANCE

A sophisticated, almost academic sort of carnival, the World
Exposition features mankind's greatest creative achievements
from all over the world in the shadow of the newly built
Eiffel Tower.

The elite chemist IRA REMSEN notices and quietly confronts
HARVEY WILEY.

HARVEY WILEY
(surprised to see him)
Dr. Remsen...

IRA REMSEN
What an interesting pleasure to
meet you here, Dr. Wiley.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

The same.

IRA REMSEN

Especially since you have...interesting opinions regarding advancements. Do you not?

HARVEY WILEY

Advancements? As a scientist I must admit that the most amazing advancements are things nature was already designed with somewhere in Creation. Man just discovers them. But when certain "advancements" are contrary to life and the natural world, they are abnormal; a sign of decline. Many food and drug industries have put their trust in such declines.

IRA REMSEN

Ah, that was what I wanted to ask you about. Some preservatives are made from chemicals that occur naturally, are they not? The trace amounts are just increased. Doesn't that justify the use of preservatives?

HARVEY WILEY

With all due respect, Dr. Remsen, that obviously defies common sense. Traces of hydrocyanic acid in peaches and plums, arsenic absorbed in food through soil and so forth are not warrants for using more toxins, but rather for reducing their quantity as much as possible.

IRA REMSEN

If not all scientists can agree as to what is harmless and what is not, then surely as long as a label states what is in the product businessmen should not be held responsible for the health of their customers. I think this point has been overlooked by you and will cause trouble. The labeling goal is as far as you'll get at this rate.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

Nothing should be allowed on the market unless it is first proven to be generally harmless. To label anything as "approved" and then add as a footnote preservatives known to be toxic is criminal. Your discovery of saccharin - you would want to ensure that it is harmless before the entire population is exposed to it, wouldn't you?

IRA REMSEN

(not wanting to discuss further)

Well, I suppose we'll find out. Nice seeing you, Dr. Wiley. (*Strolls away*).

HARVEY WILEY

Good day, Dr. Remsen.

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING

Fairly quiet outside. W.D. BIGELOW waits anxiously at the entrance along with GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN, who is scribbling notes. A STREET CAR pulls up in front. Across its side is painted an "advertisement" of sorts that says, "*A diller, a dollar, a chemical scholar, what makes you grow so thin? Because the civil service cook has put the borax in.*" W.D. BIGELOW glares at GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN when he sees it.

GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN

(shrugs)

Don't blame me for everything!

Just then HARVEY WILEY steps out of the STREET CAR.

W.D. BIGELOW

(grasping HARVEY WILEY's hand)

Ah! Dr. Wiley, oh you don't know how good it is to have you back in Washington.

HARVEY WILEY

How is everything?

W.D. BIGELOW

Crazy. Absolutely ridiculous...and Representatives Mann and Hepburn decided the Chief Chemist should have the final summary of evidence.

INT. COMMITTEE ROOM

The Congressional Committee is now gathered to investigate HARVEY WILEY's research. W.D. BIGELOW, M.A. SCOVELL and H.A. WEBER and REPRESENTATIVE MANN are present.

HARVEY WILEY

I appear before you not as an advocate of any particular measure, but as an advocate of legislation of some kind controlling interstate and foreign commerce in adulterated and misbranded foods and drugs. I wish to be understood as according to each witness the same sincerity, the same desire to present the facts, and the same freedom from bias in interpreting them that I shall hope may be attributed to me. The cause of truth is never hurt by unjust attacks and its citadel never reached by the devious ways of unworthy foes, but it is sometimes weakened by the unguided enthusiasms of its defenders.

REPRESENTATIVE ADAMSON

While you have such a high opinion, yet you do not take their judgment in these instances?

HARVEY WILEY

Certainly not. I do not want anybody else to judge for me the results of my own work. I want to do that myself.

REPRESENTATIVE ADAMSON

I wanted to give you a chance to disclaim that.

HARVEY WILEY

Not only do I disclaim that, but I've never put myself in any such situation and I never intend to. Now I will go on with my statement. Assuming that the food of man, as prepared by the Creator and modified by the cook, is the normal food of man, any change in the food which adds a burden to any of the organs, or any change which

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)
diminishes their normal functional
activity, must be hurtful.

REPRESENTATIVE ESCH
If the organs were always normal,
death would not ensue?

HARVEY WILEY
(rising from his seat)
I will not go so far as to say
that, Mr. Esch. I do refer to
longevity, though, and I believe
this with all my heart, that when
man eats a normal food normally the
length of human life will be
greatly extended. But if we consume
abnormal food abnormally we shall
lessen the length of human life.
(Grabs a pointer off the table) I
want that chart that was made this
morning. A little graphic
representation of an argument
sometimes helps a great deal.

W.D. BIGELOW carries a large, stiff chart and props it up on
the stand behind HARVEY WILEY. The Committee stares at it
with interest.

HARVEY WILEY
Here is the comparative influence
of foods and preservatives. We will
suppose that a normal dose of a
drug in a state of health is
nothing. We do not need it at all.
Now, imagine that the lethal dose
of a drug - that is, the dose that
will kill - is 100; (*Indicating
with pointer*) The lethal dose of a
food is none at all. What kills
you? You are starved to death. The
normal dose is what you eat
normally, 100. I starve a man, and
I measure the injury which he
receives at different points. I can
mathematically plot the point where
he will die. Foods and
preservatives are diametrically
opposite. The lethal dose of one is
the normal dose of the other, and
vice versa. Therefore the argument
de minimis as far as harmlessness
is concerned is a wholly illogical

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)
and unmathematical argument, and
can be demonstrated by calculus to
be so.

The Committee is speechless, having no argument to refute it
with.

REPRESENTATIVE HEPBURN
The committee will move to
executive session.

INT. REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT'S OFFICE

SOLICITOR McCABE discusses with his congressional ally, the
pompous REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
I can't believe Wiley's bill has
actually made it into Congress! You
know it will get passed! What do
you think I should do? I'm sure I
could dig something up on Wiley.
The bill could be overturned if...

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT
No, no, goodness, no. You should
know better than that. You don't
just overturn a bill in Washington
right in front of everybody - not
when more than half the country
likes it! What you do is add an
amendment to it, then another and
another. Then eventually it will
become your bill and not Wiley's,
but nobody will realize that of
course, so if anything goes wrong
it will be Wiley's fault and not
yours. That's the best way to
handle bills in Congress.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
(shaky laughter...why didn't
he think of this first?)
You will represent my
appropriations in the House?

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT
Certainly. But remember, it is
always the enforcers of the law
that have the power, not the
writers of it. We can handle the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT (cont'd)

President, and we can handle the Chief Chemist, but I'm not sure we can handle them together. You must keep Roosevelt and Wiley divided over this.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - CABINET TABLE

THEODORE ROOSEVELT picks a piece of sausage off a plate, examines it, then throws it back down.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

(shoves the plate away)

There's a possibility this is barely fit for a dog to eat.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

It was just a novel, Mr. President..

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

I wish Sinclair had left out the ridiculous socialist rant at the end, which merely tends to make people think his judgment is unsound and question his facts.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Do you think Wiley's Pure Food Act is necessary?

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Of course! I...well, years ago...when I was a combat officer in Cuba, we ordered canned meat from American manufacturers to feed the troops. The meat was spoiled, but we didn't discover it before thousands of men fell ill. Hundreds died! We lost more soldiers to food poisoning than to combat. It was a disgrace, I tell you. Absolute disgrace. To lead fine men into battle only to lose them to disease from our own nation's food supply. It's gone around in my mind all this time...

SOLICITOR MCCABE

I'm sorry to hear that.

(CONTINUED)

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
You're the highest ranking lawyer
in the Agricultural Department,
aren't you? I called you to draw up
a meat inspection bill.

INT. WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL DINING ROOM - 1926

At the back of the room...

WALTER WILLIAMS
Now, not only did McCabe not
succeed...

INT. WHITE HOUSE - CABINET TABLE - 1906

SOLICITOR McCABE is surprised at the President's request.

WALTER WILLIAMS (CONT'D V.O.)
...in convincing Roosevelt against
the Pure Food bill, but he had to
write one himself!

INT. CONSUMERS' LEAGUE MEETING

A group of studious ladies are discussing the pure food act.
ALICE LAKEY and ANNA KELTON are present.

MRS. CLANTON
Why is it taking so long for Dr.
Wiley to get the point across to
the government? Perhaps he should
have done better to please the
Roosevelt Administration in the
first place.

ANNA KELTON
Please the Roosevelt
Administration? Congress is the
problem. Don't you know how long it
takes to get something passed in
Congress?

INT. SENATE GALLERY

HARVEY WILEY stands by the rail, watching intently as the
Senate gathers to debate the issue. SOLICITOR McCABE sits
behind him, anticipating the opposite result. W.D. BIGELOW
is also seated.

(CONTINUED)

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Do you think the problems in this issue are about to be resolved by the Senate?

HARVEY WILEY

I think that the debate has made it to the right level of awareness. Problems come about when you allow the wrong people to define the debate.

SOLICITOR MCCABE walks a slight distance from HARVEY WILEY and looks over the gathering Senate as well, perhaps hoping to incite a little remorse in the Crusading Chemist.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

I take that you think I'm one of those wrong people, Dr. Wiley, even though I drew up the Meat Inspection Bill at the request of President Roosevelt. But not all of politics regards definition.

HARVEY WILEY

No, but we would be in a lot less conflict if it did.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Why have you put our nation's opportunities on the back burner and insisted that our hopeful industries are in need of reform?

HARVEY WILEY

Solicitor, our nation isn't hurting for opportunity. What it is hurting for is common sense.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Or your narrow interpretation of it.

HARVEY WILEY

Common sense isn't interpreted - it is acted. You don't have a simple reason for opposing the Act.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(becoming animated)

But I did try to support your effort! I just recommended running it through separate programs that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOLICITOR MCCABE (cont'd)
could be managed by Solicitors such
as myself.

W.D. BIGELOW
(to himself)
Oh brother...

SENATOR HEYBURN takes notice of the discussion from the
floor right below them.

HARVEY WILEY
One bureau with one Solicitor is
enough trouble to manage. I can't
fathom more.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
(to SENATOR HEYBURN)
Senator Heyburn, here is a fellow
life long Republican of
yours...making harsh decisions
toward business. I try to help but
can't keep up with you people's
ironies.

SENATOR HEYBURN
It is a bit late to argue that case
now isn't it, Solicitor?

A few other Senators laugh.

HARVEY WILEY
I have nothing against business so
long as it's ethical. But it's the
small businesses that are being
destroyed by these reckless
corporations. If you encouraged
food to be produced by local family
farms, citizens would be healthier
and States could enforce their own
laws. But no, that's too
uncomplicated for Washington
nowadays.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
What about fellow scientists in
your field that contributed these
so called adulterations you're
making such a big deal out of?

W.D. BIGELOW
Ha, scientists with way too much
time on their hands. Changing the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

W.D. BIGELOW (cont'd)
chemical makeup of
everything...next thing you know
they'll be trying to change the
genetic makeup of everything!

SOLICITOR MCCABE
And don't forget...we can't let
medical doctors go out of business.

HARVEY WILEY
If this keeps up the medical
doctors will be the most well paid
professionals at the end of the
century.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
It is your trained profession, Dr.
Wiley.

SOLICITOR MCCABE gives a shifty smile and returns to his
seat next to W.D. BIGELOW.

SENATOR HEYBURN
(presenting the bill)
Now I present to you an Act: For
preventing the manufacture, sale,
or transportation of adulterated or
misbranded or poisonous or
deleterious foods, drugs,
medicines, and liquors, and for
regulating traffic therein, and for
other purposes.

INT. CAPITOL BUILDING

HARVEY WILEY and W.D. BIGELOW follow the stately
REPRESENTATIVE MANN down the hall to the House Floor.

HARVEY WILEY
I still think that ordinary, common
sense people of average
intelligence should have no trouble
understanding. The lower house
should be no different.

W.D. BIGELOW
(looking through the doorway,
he spies DR. ECCLES in the
room)
Oh, you better rethink that one. We
are not dealing with ordinary

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

W.D. BIGELOW (cont'd)
common sense people. Their
intelligence is also questionable.

HARVEY WILEY
Then how did they get elected?

W.D. BIGELOW
They are very good at talking. But
they let Dr. Phony Physiology in
there! I don't want to be seen in
the same room with someone who
earns as much (probably more) than
me just to make things up.

REPRESENTATIVE MANN
Well how do you think I feel?

W.D. BIGELOW
Can't you keep these people
straightened out, Representative
Mann?

REPRESENTATIVE MANN
There are 385 of them!

W.D. BIGELOW
Who is that fellow chatting with
Dr. Eccles anyway?

REPRESENTATIVE MANN
Representative Scott of Kansas.

W.D. BIGELOW
Kansas? That's my home state! I am
voting him out of office...

INT. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HARVEY WILEY and W.D. BIGELOW are watching the session from
the gallery.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT
Dr. Eccles, among other scientific
and medical professionals, is under
the impression that a pure food and
drug law is not necessary. In fact,
he finds that not using
preservatives can be hazardous to
health.

(CONTINUED)

MR. SPEAKER JOSEPH CANNON
That is contrary to the view of the
chemists at the Department of
Agriculture?

REPRESENTATIVE MANN
Very much so. You know that our
chemists' research is meticulous
and credible. But you have no proof
that the manufacturer's chemists
are. I don't know about
Representative Scott, but I was
elected by the people of the State
of Illinois, not by the
corporations that make money
poisoning them and robbing them of
their right to know what is in the
products they purchase!

He has hit REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT where it hurts.

MR. SPEAKER JOSEPH CANNON
Do you have anything to say for the
corporations?

REPRESENTATIVE MANN
There are so many corporate
representatives now that I would
like to be excused from being one.

SOLICITOR McCABE isn't impressed at being mocked.

INT. WHITE HOUSE

SUPER: JUNE 30, 1906

President THEODORE ROOSEVELT signs the Act into Law.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - KELTON FAMILY'S HOUSE - DAY

VIVIAN MALLORY hands the newspaper to ANNA KELTON, as EDWARD
MALLORY, JOSEPHINE KELTON, MARY KELTON, WILLIAM KELTON,
ATLEE KELTON (now both in their teens), SARAH JENKINS, AH
SOON and AH YOU form an eager audience.

VIVIAN MALLORY
Just read it already, Nan!

ANNA KELTON
(unfolds paper and reads)
"The conference report on the Pure
Food bill was favorably acted upon
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON (cont'd)
in the Senate and House today. This
passes the bill."

Everyone is thrilled.

INT. WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL DINING ROOM - 1926

HARVEY WILEY
How does a general feel who wins a
great battle and brings a final end
to hostilities?

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING - 1906 - DAY

HARVEY WILEY, W.D. BIGELOW, REPRESENTATIVE MANN and SENATOR
HEYBURN are smiling and shaking hands as they read the
report. They are victorious!

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D V.O.)
I presume I felt that way on the
last day of June, 1906.

INT. WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL DINING ROOM - 1926

At the back of the room...

WALTER WILLIAMS
If only I had the sense at the time
to leave it at that and go on.

INT. SOLICITOR MCCABE'S OFFICE - 1907

SOLICITOR MCCABE, smirking, speaks sarcastically.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
You are coming to me to make a
complaint regarding Dr. Harvey
Wiley? The man that has gained a
hearty acclamation from nearly
every common citizen over a food
law? "The Crusading Chemist"? What
could he possibly do wrong?

A WHISKY RECTIFIER, JAMES SHERMAN, WALTER WILLIAMS
and ELLIOTT GROSVENOR are seated in front of SOLICITOR
McCABE's desk.

WALTER WILLIAMS

His order on sodium benzoate is absurd! Much too idealistic.

ELLIOTT GROSVENOR

What gives Wiley and his Bureau the right to ban preservatives that my client has been using successfully and that enhance his products?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

I assure you, gentlemen, that I am completely knowledgeable as to my profession. I haven't mistaken anything. I will admit that Dr. Wiley has some nerve in his decisions, Mr. Williams. He disagrees with my interpretation of the law. He acts as though he knows more about law than I do.

WHISKY RECTIFIER

And has the nerve to declare me fraudulent when he has no business experience. I'm the whisky maker, so I know what real liquor is and how to make it.

JAMES SHERMAN

You need to get Dr. Wiley out of power before you ruin the Roosevelt administration's reputation. You say you're a knowledgeable lawyer, sir. Prove it.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(enjoying the conversation, he prompts them to say more)

I say I am guiltless in regard to your complaint.

ELLIOTT GROSVENOR

You know we're right, don't you?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

I claim no alliance with Wiley. However, I am more respected if I take a bipartisan stand between the manufacturers and the Food Standards Committee.

(CONTINUED)

WALTER WILLIAMS

You're either in support of an entire country full of businesses or you're in support of one chemist and his experiments. If you're the Solicitor then why aren't you in charge of Wiley's law?

SOLICITOR McCABE ponders, almost absent-mindedly. He likes what he's hearing.

INT. CHIEF CHEMIST OFFICE

A timid KETCHUP MANUFACTURER is seated in front of HARVEY WILEY's desk. The fellow takes off his hat and places it in his lap. W.D. BIGELOW is also present.

KETCHUP MANUFACTURER

I'm not meaning to be a law breaker or anything, but I don't know how to move on. Please understand that I've worked very hard to build up my business and I don't think there is any other way to preserve ketchup properly except with sodium benzoate. That's the way everyone manufactures ketchup. My business will surely be outdone by others if I quit and I'll be out of work and my family - I - I just don't know what to do.

Tears come to the eyes of the desperate KETCHUP MANUFACTURER as he speaks.

HARVEY WILEY

Ah, I see. What you don't realize is that artificial preservatives are not necessary. Why don't I run an experiment at your plant?

KETCHUP MANUFACTURER

Experiment?

HARVEY WILEY

I will send one of my technical experts to your factory, if you will permit it. Dr. Bigelow, call for Dr. Bitting.

(CONTINUED)

W.D. BIGELOW

Yes sir.

INT. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE'S OFFICE

HARVEY WILEY enters SECRETARY WILSON's office to find SECRETARY WILSON, Assistant Secretary MR. HAYES and SOLICITOR McCABE present.

SECRETARY WILSON

(quietly at first)

This conference should be behind closed doors and no report of it should be made in any way to the press. Now, Dr. Wiley, does the Bureau of Chemistry still hold to the principles of F.I.D. 45?

HARVEY WILEY

Yes, certainly.

SECRETARY WILSON

Mr. Hayes, what is your opinion?

MR. HAYES

Yes, I think the Bureau of Chemistry and its Chief Chemist are correct.

SECRETARY WILSON

Solicitor McCabe, what is your opinion?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Dr. Wiley's definition of whisky is absurd. Whisky is any alcoholic beverage made from grain, properly colored and flavored, according to the prevailing custom of the trade.

SECRETARY WILSON

I agree with my Solicitor.

HARVEY WILEY

(appalled)

But according to the law only the Bureau of Chemistry can make such decisions...

SECRETARY WILSON

(surprisingly anxious)

I will not take your construction of the law, but that of my

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SECRETARY WILSON (cont'd)
Solicitor; that is what he is here
for, to interpret the law to me.

INT. COSMOS CLUB

Classy, exuding perfection as though it would be excellent
no matter what disaster befalls outside its walls.

HARVEY WILEY enters and quickly heads to the first
telephone. After dialing a number on it...

HARVEY WILEY
Secretary to President Roosevelt,
Mr. William Loeb? I'm at the Cosmos
Club, do you think you can meet me
for luncheon? It's about the Law,
the Solicitor has sparked a
disagreement.

INT. SOLICITOR MCCABE'S OFFICE

SOLICITOR MCCABE enters to find his reporter friend, REYNARD
FORD, waiting for him.

REYNARD FORD
Any news?

SOLICITOR MCCABE
We've won this debate. If I could
say so, it wouldn't hurt to win the
press as well.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

At least a dozen reporters gather around the stagecoach as
HARVEY WILEY steps out with his portable laboratory.

REPORTER
What on earth are you going to do?

HARVEY WILEY
I've been invited to give a lecture
to the President of the United
States.

REYNARD FORD
You may think so, but you will find
that the President will do the
lecturing.

INT. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE'S OFFICE

SOLICITOR McCABE faces SECRETARY WILSON, who is seated at his desk.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(authoritatively)

You saw how rebellious Dr. Wiley responded to us yesterday. Yet what is he doing now? Attempting to get the President's sympathy.

SECRETARY WILSON

(taken aback)

If he was summoned what else could he do?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Secretary Wilson, how could the man not be conniving? I mean if I were in as desperate a situation as he is...

SECRETARY WILSON's brow raises in suspicion.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Not to say that I would but I can imagine what he's thinking. Oh, never mind.

SECRETARY WILSON

Well, neither I nor Wiley are lawyers. What do you advise?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(suddenly very friendly)

Mr. Secretary, the Chief Chemist should not be the chief law enforcer. The heart of this debate is about intricate legalities.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - CABINET TABLE

HARVEY WILEY stirs a flask of imitation whisky; his laboratory is spread upon the Cabinet table. THEODORE ROOSEVELT is seated, with WILLIAM LOEB standing next to him.

HARVEY WILEY

The heart of this debate, Mr. President, is not about intricate legalities. It is about genuine versus artificial substances and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)

how they are labeled for the safety and sanity of the consumer. You have seen how, as a chemist, I can prove to you by experiment that the "whisky" in these bottles labeled as aged ten years are actually artificial concoctions that can be made in a minute.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

(coming to the other side of the table and grasping HARVEY WILEY's hand)

Dr. Wiley, I have heard nothing but whisky for the last three weeks, and you are the first person who has given me a single idea that I can comprehend.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Mr. Loeb, send all these documents and samples, together with Dr. Wiley's brief to Mr. Bonaparte, and ask Mr. Bonaparte to advise me on this question. The Food Law is an excellent measure, but it should be administered with some discretion. Well, goodbye Dr. Wiley, and hopefully this issue will be fully resolved.

HARVEY WILEY collects his portable laboratory.

HARVEY WILEY

Goodbye, Mr. President.

HARVEY WILEY leaves the room.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

One could have called that man a muckraker, except he offers solutions rather than socialism.

WALTER WILLIAMS (V.O.)

Roosevelt and Wiley were both resolved, no-nonsense leaders...

INT. WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL DINING ROOM - 1926

At the back of the room...

WALTER WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
 ...but they were about to have
 carved between them...

INT. HARVEY WILEY'S OFFICE - 1907

WALTER WILLIAMS (CONT'D V.O.)
 ...a great schism of nonsense.

SECRETARY WILSON enters HARVEY WILEY's office with FREDERICK
 DUNLAP - a dashing, nonchalant young man.

SECRETARY WILSON
 Dr. Wiley, I have come to introduce
 Professor F. L. Dunlap, your
 associate.

HARVEY WILEY
 Mr. Secretary, my what?

SECRETARY WILSON hands HARVEY WILEY a letter.

SECRETARY WILSON
 Your associate. I have appointed an
 associate in the Bureau of
 Chemistry. He will be acting-chief
 during your absence but will not be
 subject while you are here to your
 authority. He is the secretary of a
 Board of Food and Drug Inspection
 which I have just organized. You
 are to be chairman of that Board
 and the third member of the Board
 is the Solicitor, Mr. George P.
 McCabe.

INT. SOLICITOR MCCABE'S OFFICE - PHONE CONVERSATION

SOLICITOR MCCABE is talking with IRA REMSEN on the
 telephone.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
 It's been awhile since we discussed
 your discovery of saccharin and Dr.
 Wiley's disapproval of it. You're
 acquainted with Dr. Wiley?

INT. IRA REMSEN'S OFFICE - PHONE CONVERSATION

IRA REMSEN is talking to SOLICITOR MCCABE on the telephone.

IRA REMSEN

All of us scientists are acquainted
in one way or another. In Latin,
usually.

INT. SOLICITOR MCCABE'S OFFICE - PHONE CONVERSATION

SOLICITOR MCCABE

What do you think of Wiley?

INT. IRA REMSEN'S OFFICE - PHONE CONVERSATION

IRA REMSEN

He's a hardworking, brilliant
chemist...

INT. SOLICITOR MCCABE'S OFFICE - PHONE CONVERSATION

SOLICITOR MCCABE

What do you really think of Wiley?

INT. IRA REMSEN'S OFFICE - PHONE CONVERSATION

IRA REMSEN

He's an anti-progressive idiot.

INT. SOLICITOR MCCABE'S OFFICE - PHONE CONVERSATION

SOLICITOR MCCABE

I feel your pain, Dr. Remsen. Would
you stay on notice for something
for me? I might need your help in
the future.

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

W.D. BIGELOW stands by the door way of the laboratory as
HARVEY WILEY strides by the lab tables and shelves.

W.D. BIGELOW

A new board? Oh, do I get to sit on
this one?

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

No, unfortunately. I'm sorry they've insulted you so. You're my first assistant and have rare judgment and discrimination. But who gets put on a board (not authorized by the law) and chosen to take my place when I'm (so conveniently) out of town? Dr. Dunlap.

W.D. BIGELOW

Who?

HARVEY WILEY

Dunlap. D-U-N-L-A-P, Dunlap.

W.D. BIGELOW

Why Dunlap?

HARVEY WILEY

They say because he's a good tennis player.

W.D. BIGELOW

That figures. What is he doing now?

HARVEY WILEY

Sitting in my office, getting experience.

HARVEY WILEY collects several documents and packs them in his brief case.

INT. CHIEF CHEMIST OFFICE

FREDERICK DUNLAP sits at the desk in silence, with only the clocks ticking. He attempts to reorganize the desk in hopes of having something to do, and happens to notice a fine watch left there.

Picking it up to inspect it, he accidentally knocks the back of it open and a small photograph of ANNA KELTON slips out. He stares at the picture briefly, and sees her name on the back before slipping it back in.

HARVEY WILEY enters, W.D. BIGELOW following him.

HARVEY WILEY

Dr. Dunlap, whenever I am out of town for awhile I hope that you will have the opportunity to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (cont'd)
consult with my first assistant,
Dr. Bigelow.

HARVEY WILEY realizes that he left his watch on the desk and puts it back on.

FREDERICK DUNLAP
I'm sure there will be no conflict,
seeing how President Roosevelt so
confidently appointed me.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE

MR. CURTICE, WALTER WILLIAMS, ELLIOTT GROSVENOR, JAMES SHERMAN and several others confront President THEODORE ROOSEVELT with their arguments. SECRETARY WILSON and SOLICITOR McCABE walk in on the scene. THEODORE ROOSEVELT notices and attempts to silence the businessmen.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Alright, alright! You gentlemen
have made your point. I'll discuss
this with a member of my Cabinet.
Now, go on out, I'll speak with you
later.

The protesting crowd heads out the doorway.

WALTER WILLIAMS
(to SOLICITOR McCABE)
Where have you been?

SOLICITOR McCABE responds with a smirk and closes the door.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Those representatives have stayed
here all day. Why is this issue
clinging to me? Can't you handle
it?

SECRETARY WILSON
That is why I have brought with me
my insightful Solicitor, Mr. George
P. McCabe. You remember him, of
course.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
I think I might have the solution.

(CONTINUED)

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Well, bully right you better!

SOLICITOR MCCABE
We're putting too much blame on our
businessmen.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
The ones causing me all the
trouble?

SOLICITOR MCCABE
Well, yes - I mean, no, you see,
Mr. President, perhaps Wiley's
ideals are too stringent. Simply
introduce a more objective board
and compare research.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Research? Such as that Squad they
say consumed about the same amount
of poison as fed to the soldiers in
Cuba in the unpleasantness with
Spain?

SOLICITOR MCCABE
Something like that. A new board
could serve as a court of appeals,
so to speak.

SECRETARY WILSON
Didn't I just provide you with the
Board of Food and Drug Inspection
for that purpose?

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
And that young Dunlap fellow I got
for you?

SOLICITOR MCCABE
Of course, Mr. Secretary, Mr.
President, but we don't do
research. Another board of
scientists can beat Dr. Wiley at
his own game, so to speak.

INT. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

FREDERICK DUNLAP enters the magnificent library, obviously
with an important intention, though very lax in concern. As
he walks down one of the halls, ANNA KELTON suddenly appears
at a fast paced stride. They accidentally collide, causing
ANNA KELTON to drop the papers she is carrying.

(CONTINUED)

FREDERICK DUNLAP
Oh - I'm sorry - I didn't -

ANNA KELTON
That's alright, I can manage.

She quickly begins gathering the files back in order. FREDERICK DUNLAP is somewhat slow to action, but he begins helping her. After staring briefly he notices that she looks familiar.

FREDERICK DUNLAP
I'm sorry -

ANNA KELTON
Oh, no, I apologize, I was in a hurry.

FREDERICK DUNLAP
Well - I'm - may I ask, what is your name?

ANNA KELTON, surprised, rises to her feet.

ANNA KELTON
Anna Kelton. Do I know you?

FREDERICK DUNLAP
Anna Kelton! That was it. No, not really - I recently began working at the Bureau of Chemistry. You know Dr. Wiley?

He walks along side her as they talk.

ANNA KELTON
Yes, as a matter of fact I was employed by the Department of Agriculture as his secretary for two years. But how did you know about me?

FREDERICK DUNLAP
Well, I just noticed you bore a striking resemblance to a photograph he has.

ANNA KELTON
Photograph...So, you work with him?

FREDERICK DUNLAP
(very confident)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FREDERICK DUNLAP (cont'd)
I'm Dr. Frederick Dunlap, appointed
as the Associate Chemist of the
Bureau of Chemistry.

ANNA KELTON
Really? I don't recall Dr. Wiley
needing an Associate Chemist. Why
were you appointed?

They enter a room ANNA KELTON was sent to work in.

FREDERICK DUNLAP
Well, it was obvious to the
superiors that Dr. Wiley was too
radical to maintain his position
alone. It was decided that Dr.
Harvey Wiley will make too much
controversy for politicians and
businessmen if he has complete
control.

ANNA KELTON
Decided by whom?

FREDERICK DUNLAP
None wiser than Solicitor McCabe.

ANNA KELTON slams a book down on the table, fury rising in
her countenance. FREDERICK DUNLAP doesn't even notice.

FREDERICK DUNLAP
I'm also privileged to act with Mr.
McCabe in the Board of Food and
Drug Inspection. Dr. Wiley is the
Chairman, I'm the secretary and Mr.
McCabe is the third member. We're
attending a meeting at the White
House tomorrow.

ANNA KELTON hastily exits the room.

ANNA KELTON (O.S.)
Good day, Dr. Dunlap!

FREDERICK DUNLAP
Oh, yes - good day, Miss Kelton.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - CABINET TABLE

THEODORE ROOSEVELT is seated in the President's Chair. HARVEY WILEY sits at his left. Directly across from HARVEY WILEY sits SECRETARY WILSON, and to SECRETARY WILSON's right sits SOLICITOR McCABE, and to SOLICITOR McCABE's right sits FREDERICK DUNLAP, and WALTER WILLIAMS, ELLIOTT GROSVENOR, MR. CURTICE, JAMES SHERMAN and several others follow likewise.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

I want you to repeat now what you told me yesterday. I have had the Secretary of Agriculture and Doctor Wiley come to listen to what you said.

All the representatives look very loath. Finally the MR. CURTICE reluctantly speaks.

MR. CURTICE

We can't afford hundreds of thousands of invested capital confiscated due to that man's petty standards on sodium benzoate. Since when has a chemist had any right to say what's good to buy or sell or eat or what isn't?

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

(to SECRETARY WILSON)

What is your opinion about the propriety and desirability of enforcing the rulings of your Chief of Bureau?

SECRETARY WILSON

The law demands that substances which are added to foods for any purpose which are deleterious to health shall be forbidden.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

(earnestly)

Do you think benzoate of soda injurious?

SECRETARY WILSON

Dr. Wiley, my chemist, has made extensive investigations in feeding benzoated goods to healthy young men and in every instance he found that their health was undermined.

(CONTINUED)

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Doctor Wiley, do you think benzoate of soda injurious?

HARVEY WILEY

Mr. President, I don't think, I **know** - by patient experiment - that benzoate of soda or benzoic acid added to human food is injurious to health.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT faces the protesting representatives, strikes the table soundly with his fist, and showing his teeth in true Rooseveltian fashion...

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

You shall not put this injurious substance in foods!

The representatives sit humbled and SOLICITOR McCABE remains grudgingly silent until JAMES SHERMAN speaks, slightly nervous.

JAMES SHERMAN

Mr. President, benzoate of soda was not the only thing we were protesting about. My firm last year saved \$4,000 by sweetening corn with saccharin instead of sugar...

HARVEY WILEY

(interjecting precipitately)
Yes, Mr. President, and everyone who ate that corn was deceived. He thought he was eating sugar, when in point of fact he was eating a coal tar product totally devoid of food value and extremely dangerous to health.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

(surprised and irate)
You tell me that saccharin is injurious to health?

HARVEY WILEY

Yes, Mr. President, I do tell you that.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Why, Dr. Rixey gives it to me everyday!

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

Mr. President, he probably thinks
you may be threatened with
diabetes.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

(holding up his fist and
clenching his teeth)

Anybody who says saccharin is
injurious to health is an idiot!

Awkward silence. SECRETARY WILSON rolls his eyes discreetly
as possible at the President's outrage, HARVEY WILEY is in
denial...

HARVEY WILEY (V.O.)

(echoing)

The cause of truth is never hurt by
unjust attacks and its citadel
never reached by the devious ways
of unworthy foes, but it is
sometimes weakened by the unguided
enthusiasms of its defenders.

...and SOLICITOR McCABE gloats.

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - DAY

The afternoon sky is overcast, slightly thundering,
threatening rain. VIVIAN MALLORY and EDWARD MALLORY are
trying to keep up with ANNA KELTON, who is walking briskly.

VIVIAN MALLORY

(looks up from beneath her
plumed hat)

Let me get this straight, Nannie.
There you are, in the Library of
Congress, and this dashing young
man happens to recognize you
because he saw your picture in Dr.
Wiley's office. That is perfectly
outrageous!

ANNA KELTON

Something very odd is going on in
the Bureau. An Associate Chemist
and new board - how can things
possibly function well with
everyone voting and canceling out
each other's votes?

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN MALLORY

Oh, Anna just when something interesting comes up you have to start discussing politics.

ANNA KELTON

(turns sharply)

Vivian! Can you handle anything serious?

VIVIAN MALLORY

I was only teasing, Nan. Yes, the problem - Harvey Wiley is going to be replaced.

ANNA KELTON

That's what you would expect oppositional government to do. But no, it's something more complicated than that and I don't like it.

EDWARD MALLORY

Alright. I play the victim, as usual. What exactly is going on? What's on your mind, Nannie?

The White House is in clear view. Everything is fairly lax in atmosphere; some reporters are waiting on the lawn, and some are still arriving as members of the meeting gradually exit the White House, the first of which is SOLICITOR McCABE.

ANNA KELTON

There he is - McCabe.

VIVIAN MALLORY

Ooh, so that's the Solicitor. Just as I imagined him.

EDWARD MALLORY

Sure.

VIVIAN MALLORY

You men just don't realize how transparent you are. Look, there's reporter Reynard Ford!

EDWARD MALLORY

Oh joy.

Seeing SOLICITOR McCABE approach his horse, ANNA KELTON starts walking across the street.

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN MALLORY

Well he's the only reporter I know.
Nan, where are you going?

ANNA KELTON

I think I will attempt
interrogating Mr. McCabe.

EDWARD MALLORY

The question I should have asked
her is, "Are you out of your
mind?".

ANNA KELTON greets some of the reporters she knows
personally, including GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN and REYNARD
FORD.

ANNA KELTON

Hello George, and Mr. Ford.

GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN

Hi Anna...

REYNARD FORD

Why, Miss Anna Kelton! I didn't
expect to see at the White House.
Miss Mallory and Edward followed
you?

ANNA KELTON, lost in thought, walks past him and to meet
SOLICITOR McCABE as he rides toward the street.

ANNA KELTON

Solicitor McCabe!

SOLICITOR McCABE gives a surprised stare.

ANNA KELTON

(trying to be composed)
I'm Anna Kelton - I was secretary
to Dr. Wiley...

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Oh yes...I remember you.

ANNA KELTON

I trust that you leave this
apparently important meeting with a
knowledge of success.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Success?

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON

Yes, of course. You know, I am certain, how much the public anticipates our leaders making wise choices regarding the Pure Food Law.

SOLICITOR McCABE begins to look irritated, and perhaps ever so slightly humiliated. He knows the people are not on his side. He tries to laugh it off.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Does a society belle demand to hear a legal spiel from me?

He attempts to ignore her and ride on. ANNA KELTON quickly grabs one of the horse's reins, forcing it to halt.

ANNA KELTON

Yes, I demand that.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(astonished)

Would it please you to know that the stalwart Dr. Wiley has just invoked President Roosevelt's ire in a manner of disrespect as I have never before seen?

ANNA KELTON stares somber and unconvinced.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(amused, more confident)

Those that disregard the government will be disregarded by the government. Why worry yourself over a legal skirmish?

ANNA KELTON

(slowly sliding her hand off the rein)

That's all this is to you, isn't it? A legal skirmish.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

I'm a solicitor, Miss Kelton, not a benignant philanthropist.

They both become speechless. SOLICITOR McCABE quickly brings his horse to a trot and leaves. ANNA KELTON senses REYNARD FORD scribbling notes behind her.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON
Reynard!

REYNARD FORD
(surprised, quickly crumples
his notes)
Wouldn't dream of it.

HARVEY WILEY has just left the White House.

HARVEY WILEY
Miss Kelton!

ANNA KELTON
Dr. Wiley...

VIVIAN MALLORY and EDWARD MALLORY show up from the street.

EDWARD MALLORY
Well Anna, are you satisfied? Oh,
hello Dr. Wiley.

HARVEY WILEY
Why, hello and what a surprise to
meet three young friends of mine
outside the White House.

ANNA KELTON, HARVEY WILEY, VIVIAN MALLORY and EDWARD MALLORY
begin walking across the lawn.

VIVIAN MALLORY
Yes, we came along on a stroll with
Anna.

A stagecoach comes to a halt on the street. W.D. BIGELOW
steps out.

W.D. BIGELOW
Dr. Wiley! What happened? I would
have expected you to still be at
the Cabinet table.

HARVEY WILEY turns to ANNA KELTON.

HARVEY WILEY
(observing the weather)
It looks like a storm is
threatening. You are welcome to
ride in our coach, Miss Kelton.
Miss Mallory and Edward too, of
course.

INT. STAGECOACH

They are all seated, W.D. BIGELOW directly across from HARVEY WILEY, EDWARD MALLORY to his left and VIVIAN MALLORY after him. ANNA KELTON is seated next to HARVEY WILEY.

W.D. BIGELOW

You invoked the ire of Roosevelt, eh?

HARVEY WILEY

If he had only extended his Royal Excalibur I would have arisen as Sir Idiot.

VIVIAN MALLORY

How - how - condemning! For the President to think of you so.

EDWARD MALLORY

After all your hard work? Our hard work?

HARVEY WILEY

It is my own fault. I should have remembered that when speaking to Royalty - or any other official in authority - you must always allow them to speak first and ask the customary questions.

ANNA KELTON remains silent and pondering.

HARVEY WILEY

You've been awfully quiet, Miss Kelton.

ANNA KELTON

I haven't received the customary questions.

HARVEY WILEY

Miss Kelton, what is your impression of Solicitor McCabe?

ANNA KELTON

(bluntly)

He is saccharin, through and through. Sweet on contact with a bitter aftertaste.

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN MALLORY

Don't think her response to be disrespectful, Dr. Wiley. She treats men her own age far worse.

ANNA KELTON shoots VIVIAN MALLORY a furious glance. W.D. BIGELOW slowly slides his hat past his eyes so as to look like he isn't paying attention, though he is really laughing.

INT. REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT'S OFFICE

SOLICITOR McCABE paces the room while REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT and WALTER WILLIAMS listen.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

I'm sure Roosevelt will approve of bringing Dr. Remsen to Washington. But beyond that, I think I've found a way to get Wiley out of the picture for certain. He's too clean to get kicked out easily. But the Chief of minuscule details has overlooked a technicality.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT

Good, good. What's the deal?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Dr. Wiley is breaking an obscure law by spending more government money per diem than permitted on a scientist he hired: Dr. H.H. Rusby.

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

H.H. RUSBY, a meticulous and innocent scientist in a bowler hat is busily at work in the laboratory.

INT. CHIEF CHEMIST OFFICE

SECRETARY WILSON now presents five chemists to the beleaguered HARVEY WILEY: IRA REMSEN, RUSSELL H. CHITTENDEN, JOHN H. LONG, CHRISTIAN A. HERTER and ALONZO E. TAYLOR.

SECRETARY WILSON

We have appointed a new board. The Referee Board of Consulting Scientific Experts. This one you won't even have to be chairman of.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SECRETARY WILSON (cont'd)

Dr. Ira Remsen here is chairman,
and will help keep studies
unbiased.

HARVEY WILEY and IRA REMSEN immediately recognize each
other...and their differences.

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

HARVEY WILEY and W.D. BIGELOW discuss.

W.D. BIGELOW

Ira Remsen! "Unbiased"? He's the
one that invented saccharin in the
first place! Is this joke?

HARVEY WILEY

It is what many honorable
scientists of the past must have
feared. Science is being treated as
just another industry. New
generations of scientists are
preparing to waste their time
attempting to verify a lost cause.
McCabe must be proud.

W.D. BIGELOW

Why don't you fight? Why don't you
go for each and every one of these
people and make it so hot for him
that something will have to break?

HARVEY WILEY

I have no time to spend knocking
chips off people's shoulders.

INT. SUPREME COURT REPORTER'S HOME

The Supreme Court Reporter is holding a social dinner. ANNA
KELTON is seated. AUGUSTUS HEATON happens to be seated next
to her and is sketching an impromptu portrait.

AUGUSTUS HEATON

Turn that way, slightly. There.

ANNA KELTON shifts position once again and notices HARVEY
WILEY debating with IRA REMSEN.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON

Listen to them...

AUGUSTUS HEATON

The scientists? How could I miss that?

HARVEY WILEY

(to IRA REMSEN)

I like to recall what Louis Agassiz taught me at Harvard: "The sad confession which every true scientific man learns to make is: 'I am ignorant; I want to learn'". When we think science has solved everything, we have failed.

IRA REMSEN

You put stock in even a quote from Louis Agassiz? Well, I mean, he was a truly scientific man, brilliant fellow. But I could not be allied with a man who opposed true science. That is a hindrance to progress.

ANNA KELTON

Pardon me, Dr. Remsen, but how can a truly scientific man possibly oppose true science? (to AUGUSTUS HEATON) Mind if I move?

IRA REMSEN

I'm referring to Darwin's theory of Evolution. It has been endorsed by a great many in the scientific society. So much so that it's nearly primitive to suggest otherwise.

ANNA KELTON

"Society"? "Primitive"? Forgive me, but you make this "true science" sound like just a trend. I'm used to fashion trends.

IRA REMSEN

I would hardly say that "trend" is the right word, Miss Kelton. A scientific theory should gain more respect than that.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON

How much theoretical persistence may be respected when truth is on the line? Something as influential as science must demand accuracy.

IRA REMSEN

As well as not have its advancements hindered. Perhaps the greatest age in science is yet to come. My job is not to fret over the currently indeterminable. It is to have my mind open to evidence.

HARVEY WILEY

Would those who ignored such "advancements" be considered primitive?

IRA REMSEN

I suppose so.

HARVEY WILEY

When I studied as a medical apprentice, Dr. Hampton and I encountered many poor country folk; distant from improved society and living off their homesteads. Yet they were healthier than most of those living in more advanced communities that I have witnessed. What explanation is there for that?

AUGUSTUS HEATON

(after a brief pause)

Oh come now, did you really think you could trip Wiley up?

IRA REMSEN

Science is quite tentative.

ANNA KELTON

Oh, I see. (to AUGUSTUS HEATON)
Just as long as I don't resemble an ape in my portrait.

The surrounding guests laugh.

ANNA KELTON

(to HARVEY WILEY)

Sorry I got involved in that conversation. It was just too much fun.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

You don't have to apologize to me.
Your words gracefully gambol and
jump...sound sweet like the water
in Sprengel's pump...in magnesic
phosphate ablution.

IRA REMSEN gives HARVEY WILEY an incredulous glance as he
strolls away.

ANNA KELTON

(laughs)

How poetic! In a scientific way...

HARVEY WILEY

How have you been? And your family?

ANNA KELTON

Fine, doing well. The boys have
left home for their various
vacations. Atlee left for Alaska.
He's a restless, adventurous sort
of fellow. I hope he doesn't get
into trouble.

An elderly Supreme Court Justice, JUSTICE HARLAN, approaches
HARVEY WILEY.

JUSTICE HARLAN

Come over here, my boy, where there
are not so many people. I would
like to talk to you.

HARVEY WILEY

(smiling at ANNA KELTON)

It was nice to see you, Anna. Take
care.

HARVEY WILEY follows JUSTICE HARLAN to a secluded spot
behind the punch bowl, where they sit down upon a sofa.

JUSTICE HARLAN

What is this I hear about holding
Supreme Court in the White House?

HARVEY WILEY

You know as much about it as I do,
Mr. Justice, you have read the
newspapers.

JUSTICE HARLAN

Tut, tut! Things are coming to a
pretty pass in this country,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JUSTICE HARLAN (cont'd)
holding Supreme Court in the White
House...the question of "What is
whisky?" was on its way to my Court
and now it will never reach there.

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

W.D. BIGELOW is teaching chemist inspection teams. H.H.
RUSBY is working with him.

W.D. BIGELOW
When you arrive at a grocery store,
buy three samples of each product
suspected to be adulterated. Keep
the company name on file and then
run tests on the food...

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture MR. HAYES enters.

MR. HAYES
Dr. Bigelow...

W.D. BIGELOW
(to students)
Excuse me. (To MR. HAYES) Yes?

MR. HAYES
You're wanted at the Solicitor's
office.

H.H. RUSBY
I'll take over for the moment.

MR. HAYES
You're wanted too, Dr. Rusby.

INT. SOLICITOR MCCABE'S OFFICE

MR. HAYES brings W.D. BIGELOW and H.H. RUSBY behind
SOLICITOR MCCABE's closed doors. Another official, Chief
CLERK CLARK, is also present.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
First Assistant Chemist Bigelow...

W.D. BIGELOW
Yes, Solicitor McCabe?

(CONTINUED)

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Tell me about the payment of Dr. Rusby, the Bureau of Chemistry's pharmo...pharma...

W.D. BIGELOW

Pharmacognosist.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Right. You are a prime overzealous agent in raising his salary over \$9 a day, are you not?

W.D. BIGELOW

But he isn't paid anymore than any government scientist in annual salary, it just so happens that this new daily payment fits his work schedule better...

SOLICITOR MCCABE

It is a violation of federal law.

INT. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House is reviewing appropriations to the Pure Food Law.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT

Solicitor McCabe is employed on very important work. He is occupied daily with questions growing out of the enforcement of the pure food law. A raise in his salary is perfectly excusable.

REPRESENTATIVE MANN

I have to raise a point of order on this one, Mr. Speaker. The position of "Solicitor of the Department of Agriculture" wasn't even authorized by the law, but rather carried out by appropriations (eyes *REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT*). I think a large share of Solicitor McCabe's duty is to hinder the enforcement of the pure food law. He ought to have nothing to do with it, in my judgment. Order 140 gives McCabe charge over all manufacturer cases instead of Wiley who actually knows what he's dealing with.

(CONTINUED)

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT
What?! There is no significant
change in this amendment.

REPRESENTATIVE MANN
Oh yes there is. McCabe probably
wrote it himself.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT
Well Wiley doesn't know how to
handle government spending. He's
breaking federal law by over paying
that Dr. Rusby...

REPRESENTATIVE MANN
You evidently haven't met the big
spenders at the Remsen Board. They
spent government money on bird
cages and horoscopes! (*Laughter from
other Reps.*) Oh, but criticizing
them is off limits in Congress,
pardon me.

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING

W.D. BIGELOW is walking briskly with MR. HAYES.

W.D. BIGELOW
What is this trouble over Dr.
Rusby's salary all about?

MR. HAYES
Oh, McCabe thought he had stumbled
on to something. He thought he
could make some trouble. You
noticed Clark and I kept in the
background. He criticized us for
that afterward.

INT. CHIEF CHEMIST OFFICE

W.D. BIGELOW enters in a hurry.

HARVEY WILEY
(rummaging through a stack of
files on his desk)
These are the cases that haven't
been prosecuted yet?

(CONTINUED)

W.D. BIGELOW

Yes sir. About half of them have already been sent to the Solicitor's office.

HARVEY WILEY

(stopping to examine one)

Wait, this must be a mistake. Why haven't you submitted the Florida case already?

W.D. BIGELOW

The one about the candy store that advertised "Fresh Every Hour" even though it's impossible since their goods are shipped from New York?

HARVEY WILEY

That very case.

W.D. BIGELOW

Well, Dr. Wiley, it's sort of hard to say this - seeing how I've never disagreed with you before, but I...have a feeling we should let that one go.

HARVEY WILEY

We've come this far and you would say that?

W.D. BIGELOW

Exactly - we've come this far and I don't think we need to throw an extra wrench in the gear over something so minute -

HARVEY WILEY

McCabe's philosophy wearing off on you, eh?

W.D. BIGELOW

Nonsense! But I'm certain McCabe is up to something worse and we don't need to give him more ammunition.

HARVEY WILEY

McCabe gets into mischief, but he's only one man in this whole administration. I don't want to give him credit for accomplishing that much.

(CONTINUED)

W.D. BIGELOW

I don't know, Dr. Wiley. I'm concerned. He's dangerous.

HARVEY WILEY

I appreciate your concern, but I think you're wrong this time. Get that case underway quickly.

INT. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE'S OFFICE

SECRETARY WILSON

Wiley, Wiley, Wiley. Every time I turn around I'm hearing something bad about Wiley! (*He turns around to see SOLICITOR McCABE*).

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(Pleased at finally unsettling SECRETARY WILSON over HARVEY WILEY. Mission accomplished)

I'm sorry you have been thus grieved, Mr. Secretary. I suspected his shady character from the beginning. I have issued an order preventing him and the other chemists from having any contact with Congressmen. That should keep them at bay until we research the Rusby scandal fully.

The Attorney-General of the State of Indiana, JAMES BINGHAM, enters the room.

SECRETARY WILSON

(rising to shake his hand)
Ah, hello, Mr. Bingham *(to SOLICITOR McCABE)* This is the Attorney-General of Indiana.

JAMES BINGHAM

Hello, Secretary Wilson. I only have a moment but wanted to ask you about the pending case at the Indiana State Board of Health. The manufacturers keep pulling this "unconstitutional" card on us. Will you please allow Dr. Wiley and his Bureau chemists to testify at our court?

(CONTINUED)

SECRETARY WILSON
(glancing at SOLICITOR McCABE)
Oh, I'm afraid I cannot allow them
to go, Attorney-General.

JAMES BINGHAM
What? Why not?

SECRETARY WILSON
It's a little strange but, I'm not
sure it would look right because
the Bureau chemists don't agree
with the Remsen Board and the
Remsen Board is testifying for
the...complainant. It's an
etiquette thing.

JAMES BINGHAM
(can hardly believe his ears)
Now *that* is unconstitutional. Never
mind. I will move the court here.

SOLICITOR McCABE is appalled.

INT. OLD SENATE CHAMBER

At this time, the Supreme Court was held in the Old Senate Chamber within the Capitol Building.

W.D. BIGELOW steps up to the witness stand to give his testimony before the Supreme Court Judges. WALTER WILLIAMS and ELLIOTT GROSVENOR watch along with the KETCHUP MANUFACTURER.

JUDGE BARNARD
State your name and position.

W.D. BIGELOW
Dr. W.D. Bigelow, First Assistant
of the Bureau of Chemistry.

JUDGE BARNARD
Will you present your testimony on
sodium benzoate?

W.D. BIGELOW
By order of Solicitor McCabe I am
not allowed to testify regarding
the studies.

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE BARNARD

Is Solicitor McCabe a chemist?

W.D. BIGELOW

Not to my knowledge, your honor.

JUDGE BARNARD

Then that order is ridiculous. Now that you are at the Supreme Court by all means testify.

A nervous LAWYER suddenly rises.

LAWYER

Your honor, I'm a lawyer from the Solicitor's office. This chemist cannot continue to present this evidence because it is expert evidence which cannot be given without consent of the expert.

JUDGE BARNARD

It's about as much expert evidence as if they had seen a dog fight on the street and had been asked to testify about it. Solicitor McCabe apparently made an error.

LAWYER

Wiley and Bigelow aren't the only scientists in Washington...

JUDGE BARNARD

And you and McCabe aren't the only lawyers in Washington. (*Other justices laugh*) Continue, Dr. Bigelow.

W.D. BIGELOW

Sodium benzoate has been confirmed harmful in the experimental trials that took place for 5 years. I will go into further detail of that if you would like. This man from Terre Haute, Indiana has ceased from the use of sodium benzoate successfully.

KETCHUP MANUFACTURER

After Dr. Wiley organized an experiment at my plant, I realized ketchup doesn't need sodium benzoate to be preserved, and my

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KETCHUP MANUFACTURER (cont'd)
customers agreed it tastes much
better without. My product doesn't
contain a particle of sodium
benzoate and neither law nor money
would drive me to use it again.

WALTER WILLIAMS and ELLIOTT GROSVENOR listen with interest.

WALTER WILLIAMS (V.O.)
Then it occurred to me. All this
time I had thought only of
inconveniences and dollar signs.

INT. WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL DINING ROOM - 1926

At the back of the room...

WALTER WILLIAMS
I never realized that Dr. Wiley
might be telling the hard truth
rather than giving me a hard time.

INT. COURT ROOM - 1909

The testimony continues while WALTER WILLIAMS and his
attorney ELLIOTT GROSVENOR listen.

WALTER WILLIAMS CONT'D (V.O.)
I realized that products could be
prepared far better without those
nasty and useless preservatives.

INT. WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL DINING ROOM - 1926

At the back of the room...

WALTER WILLIAMS
But it was too late. I had become a
pawn in a great game of chess. Or
more so a rook, to be honest.
Ironically, in attempts to keep one
man from having authority over the
issue I took power out of Wiley's
hands and gave it to McCabe!

EXT. CAPITOL BUILDING - 1909 - DAY

SOLICITOR McCABE strides to the front steps of the Capitol.

WALTER WILLIAMS CONT'D (V.O)

Did Solicitor McCabe really think he was helping business? We'll never know what went on in his mind, but ultimately he helped no one.

INT. CAPITOL FOYER

SOLICITOR McCABE halts as his fellow LAWYER runs toward him.

WALTER WILLIAMS CONT'D(V.O)

He did what many ingenious political minds do. He curbed the interests of the misled minority to get his own way.

LAWYER

Solicitor, some of the manufacturers that came to you are withdrawing their prosecutions -

SOLICITOR MCCABE

You mean you let Bigelow's testimony get through?

LAWYER

Solicitor, this is the Supreme Court. But if people see no reason to oppose Wiley then I guess you don't...

SOLICITOR MCCABE

My appropriations and my board will supervise the law! Ever since I came to Washington I've heard nothing but "Wiley". I knew this law couldn't be enforced. Dr. Wiley disagreed. The people disagreed along with him. But I can still win Denver.

SOLICITOR McCABE leaves his fellow LAWYER dumbfounded.

EXT. CONVENTION BUILDING IN DENVER - DAY

Bitter, grayish-brown atmosphere as officials from all over the country gather to the convention at the capital of Colorado.

SUPER: DENVER, COLORADO 1909

HARVEY WILEY and W.D. BIGELOW approach the building.

HARVEY WILEY

Imagine that. Here we are, summoned to the most important convention yet and we're not even allowed to testify.

W.D. BIGELOW

What does Solicitor McCabe intend for us to do anyway?

HARVEY WILEY

Lose.

INT. ANNA KELTON'S BEDROOM

It is evening; ANNA KELTON is dressed in a nightgown and brushing her hair when she notices a letter on her desk addressed to her from Denver, Colorado.

ANNA KELTON

Denver? (she opens it)

HARVEY WILEY (V.O.)

Dear Anna, I hope this letter finds you well. These days at the convention are crucial for the future of the Food Law so I wrote to tell you -

Sudden interruption by the door thrust open and the appearance of a pale and shaken MARY KELTON.

ANNA KELTON

When did this letter arrive? What's wrong?

MARY KELTON

It came with this one from Alaska...(trembling, she hands an opened letter to ANNA KELTON)

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON
(terrified disbelief)
Is Atlee...he's dead!

INT. DENVER CONVENTION

A banner spread on the wall of the convention room reads, "ASSOCIATION OF FOOD AND DRUG OFFICIALS". HARVEY WILEY, W.D. BIGELOW and SOLICITOR McCABE are seated at a table behind the podium and which SECRETARY WILSON is speaking.

SECRETARY WILSON
Now with regard to a few preservatives, there is a difference of opinion among the chemists of the world. One in question is benzoate of soda. The Remsen Board finds it harmless. President Emery has attacked their report. All I ask is that the hearing be a full and fair one.

Cheers from his supporting audience. SECRETARY WILSON steps down. The men rise up and down from their seats as they take turns disputing...

J.Q. EMERY
(angrily)
This Referee Board was asked to come to this convention by the executive committee, and the insinuation that it is not to be given fair play comes with poor grace. The report went to the Secretary of Agriculture and he sent it back without comment. We took it that it did not meet his approval.

SOLICITOR McCABE taps his pen on the table as he listens. W.D. BIGELOW, with his attention still toward the speech, subconsciously grabs the pen to stop the sound.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
(to HARVEY WILEY)
The Remsen Referee Board has determined that sodium benzoate isn't harmful. You're not the final authority on chemists, no matter how famous you are.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

The Remsen Board failed to measure food exactly for their experimental teams. That is a fatal scientific error!

W.D. BIGELOW

And why are you calling Indiana "unconstitutional" in its enforcement of the law?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

It's a violation of State's Rights.

HARVEY WILEY

The State of Indiana was enforcing its own law on manufacturers. That is no violation.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Oh, but Dr. Wiley, the manufacturers secured a proper legal route. The very language of your law only specifies regulations for interstate commerce. You better leave interpreting the fine print to me, Chief Chemist. It must be dizzying after looking through a microscope all your life.

Some of HARVEY WILEY's opponents chuckle.

SECRETARY WILSON

(returning to podium)

Wait a moment, I'll answer you, Honorable President Emery. You gentlemen up Mackinac way took it upon yourselves to condemn us down at Washington unheard, and so we figured you were not the material from which judges of the Supreme Court can be made. Solicitor McCabe...

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(rising to read aloud)

"It having been determined that Benzoate of Soda mixed with food is not injurious to health, no objection will be raised under the Food and Drugs Act to the use in food of benzoate of soda, provided that each container or package of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOLICITOR MCCABE (cont'd)
 such food is plainly labeled to
 show the presence and amount of
 benzoate of soda." Generally
 speaking, a meager one tenth of one
 percent. There is no swindling at
 all; the preservatives are listed
 on the ingredients labels.

HARVEY WILEY
 (undertone)
 And one day, when they read the
 labels and see preservatives that
 common sense says are sickening,
 the people might start to wonder
 who put them there.

SOLICITOR MCCABE
 After all, we have to weed out
 business malpractices, not
 businesses with embellished signs
 that claim candy is "Fresh Every
 Hour".

His quip generates laughter. W.D. BIGELOW looks worried.
 HARVEY WILEY starts to realize his mistake.

SECRETARY WILSON
 As you cast your ballots, remember
 this provision of the law and
 choose the leaders that will
 supervise it appropriately.

EXT. STREET IN WASHINGTON

ANNA KELTON is dressed in black, her face wrapped in a
 gentle scarf/veil in the chilly weather. VIVIAN MALLORY is
 dressed more soberly than usual. They are quietly shopping
 the grocery market when ANNA KELTON notices that a man
 happens to be selling adulterated milk to an unsuspecting
 WOMAN.

ANNA KELTON
 You can't sell that.

MERCHANT
 Says who?

ANNA KELTON
 The Law.

(CONTINUED)

MERCHANT

I've failed no inspections.

ANNA KELTON

I recognize tampered milk when I see it. (To WOMAN) Ma'am, please buy from somewhere else.

MERCHANT

What nonsense is this? The Food Bill is dead. You're wasting your breath.

An all-too familiar congressman standing nearby overhears...

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT

He's right. The lawyers have acknowledged that the businessmen know more about their products anyway. It should be an expert decision. It was a mistake for Washington to try and enforce this cabal.

He doesn't realize to whom he is speaking and what kind of fury he is arousing in the already grieving ANNA KELTON.

ANNA KELTON

What's this? A Congressman out of his ivory tower.

VIVIAN MALLORY

Ignore him, Anna.

ANNA KELTON

(to REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT)
Say that again.

ANNA KELTON places money on the table of the MERCHANT and grabs the bottle of milk the WOMAN almost purchased.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT

The Wiley Act was Washington's mistake -

By now the surrounding crowd is paying attention.

ANNA KELTON

You know, for years I thought of Washington as my home. But Washington doesn't belong to me. Washington doesn't belong to the American people. It's just another

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON (cont'd)
business that thinks it's too
expert to play by the rules!

She throws the milk bottle at REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT's feet and it shatters. VIVIAN MALLORY stares with her hand over her mouth in astonishment, trying to hold back tears along with ANNA KELTON, who quickly turns from the crowd. REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT kicks the glass aside and strolls away.

INT. DENVER HOTEL LOBBY

The room is filled with only the few members of the Remsen Board when HARVEY WILEY enters. W.D. BIGELOW greets him.

W.D. BIGELOW
18 states voted for Bird and 18
states voted for Flanders. The
Department of Agriculture
determined it and their 3 votes
went to Flanders.

HARVEY WILEY
We didn't have a chance with the
Department.

The Remsen Board members are quite chipper amongst themselves, no doubt succeeding. But CHRISTIAN A. HERTER, seeing the Chief Chemist enter, soberly walks toward him, looking somewhat glum and weak.

CHRISTIAN A. HERTER
Dr. Wiley, I know this has been a
trying time for you. You probably
don't know that it has been a
trying time for me, too.

HARVEY WILEY
We all knew this was going to be
quite a storm.

CHRISTIAN A. HERTER
Oh, it's not that only, it's just -
I don't exactly know how to explain
- I'm just sorry. Sorry that I've
been a part of this. You have every
right to say our science has been
faulty. The Solicitor knows what
the results of our report will be
before I do.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

Are you alright, Dr. Herter?

CHRISTIAN A. HERTER

I think I'll be alright. Let me know, if possible, what becomes of the investigation in Washington.

INT. COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

SUPER: MOSS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

REPRESENTATIVE MOSS

(The Chairman)

The investigation for this conspiracy against Dr. Harvey Wiley will proceed. Will you please state your precise duties as existing in the department when you are not acting as chief chemist?

FREDERICK DUNLAP

I am associate chemist of the Bureau of Chemistry and member of the Board of Food and Drug Inspection.

REPRESENTATIVE MOSS

As associate chemist, what are your duties?

FREDERICK DUNLAP

I have no duties.

REPRESENTATIVE MOSS stares quizzically at W.D. BIGELOW, who stands watching the investigation, and returns the stare with an affirmative nod.

REPRESENTATIVE MOSS

Your sole duty is as a member of the Board of Food and Drug Inspection?

FREDERICK DUNLAP

Exactly.

REPRESENTATIVE MOSS

I would advise you, Dr. Dunlap, to take a long vacation.

INT. MOSS COMMITTEE HEARING

SOLICITOR McCABE sits quietly, as he is cross examined by HARRY DAVIS. The airy room is filled with spectators. HARVEY WILEY, W.D. BIGELOW, FREDERICK DUNLAP and SECRETARY WILSON observe the hearing from the front row.

HARRY DAVIS

Why did you hold that Dr. Wiley, who believed that benzoate of soda was harmful, need not testify?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

I will say frankly that I did not want Dr. Wiley to testify in that case.

REPRESENTATIVE MOSS

Why?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Because I did not want him to appear in opposition to the ruling of the Remsen board and the department to the effect that benzoate of soda was not deleterious.

Suddenly the sound of a door slam breaks the organized interrogation. Everyone looks toward the entrance of the building to see a YOUNG MAN angling his way through the spectators, holding aloft a package of papers.

The YOUNG MAN rushes up to SOLICITOR McCABE's side, and places the stack of papers in front of him.

REPRESENTATIVE MOSS

Ah, this gentleman is a representative from the Government Printing Office. He has been sent with the proofs of food decisions with the corrections made in the Department of Agriculture.

HARRY DAVIS reaches for the stack and grabs a sheet of paper from it.

HARRY DAVIS

Can you identify this, Solicitor?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Yes. Judgment 742.

(CONTINUED)

HARRY DAVIS

Go on.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

The prosecution of a beverage company.

HARRY DAVIS

In the third count the Missouri beverage company was charged with adulterating a substance with "cocaine, benzoic acid and coal tar dye". The company plead guilty and agreed to be fined. But what did Solicitor McCabe do afterwards? He changed the notice to declare that the company was fined because of "cocaine, caffeine and 'harmful' coal tar dye". Why? (*Drops page*) Why was the change made in your office?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Because the department had never alleged that benzoate of soda was harmful. It held the opposite.

The spectators chortle.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Yes, I changed the notice, but that writing isn't mine. I don't know whose it is.

HARRY DAVIS

Mr. McCabe, do you think that was a truthful notice of the decision of the court?

SOLICITOR MCCABE

No, I do not. But it is not a change of court's records. I never had them.

HARRY DAVIS

But you changed this judgment to conform to what you had sent to the Department of Justice as basis for prosecution.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

That is correct.

(CONTINUED)

HARRY DAVIS

And that doesn't even include the thousands of prosecutions you have hidden.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(insulted and losing)

Dr. Wiley has become a national hero. But I'm afraid people are misinformed. Supposedly there is some huge health risk, and what does Wiley pick on? A candy store for posting a sign embellished with "fresh every hour".

W.D. BIGELOW shakes his head with dismay.

SOLICITOR MCCABE (CONT'D)

Do you really imagine our descendants suffering from all kinds of heart disease and cancer? Ailments considered rare in our day and probably won't even exist in a hundred years. Have we seen the masses fall ill because of these practices? What proof of danger is there outside of Dr. Wiley's laboratory?

INT. SPACIOUS CONGRESSIONAL FOYER

Large, marbled and empty. The afternoon light shining in is dimming to evening. HARVEY WILEY and SOLICITOR MCCABE are exiting the building from the committee meetings when they happen to both be in the foyer.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

Dr. Wiley,

HARVEY WILEY turns to face him, surprised that SOLICITOR MCCABE wants to talk.

SOLICITOR MCCABE

(rigid)

I don't think my side of the debate will ever understand you. Why have you kept it up? I warned you from the beginning that the government cannot handle this. I'm sorry.

SOLICITOR MCCABE abruptly leaves before HARVEY WILEY says anything. W.D. BIGELOW enters the room just as SOLICITOR MCCABE is leaving.

(CONTINUED)

W.D. BIGELOW

What intent do you think is on his
mind? Criminal? Or clueless?

HARVEY WILEY

Hopeless.

INT. STREET CAR

HARVEY WILEY steps into the STREET CAR. He starts to take a seat when a woman quickly moves her books out of the way to make room for him. Much to HARVEY WILEY's surprise, the woman is -

ANNA KELTON

Pardon me sir, I shouldn't have
left those in the way.

HARVEY WILEY

Miss Kelton? I haven't heard from
you since that sad letter...I'm
sorry.

Silence...she seems very quiet, almost reluctant to
converse.

ANNA KELTON

It's just me, my mother and Mary at
home now.

HARVEY WILEY

Do you mind if I come over?

ANNA KELTON

Well no, not at all. There isn't
any reason why you can't.

INT. KELTON FAMILY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

HARVEY WILEY stands by the living room window as evening
falls.

HARVEY WILEY

(dryly)

Anna, I broke the law.

ANNA KELTON

I don't believe it.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY

(takes a seat next to ANNA
KELTON)

According to the legal expert,
McCabe, I violated federal law.

ANNA KELTON

Oh he can talk...

HARVEY WILEY

The same technicality takes place
frequently in government and goes
unnoticed...

ANNA KELTON

Until you do it. It's a setup!
McCabe has wanted you out all these
years...

HARVEY WILEY

I have no intention of remaining in
the Bureau of Chemistry.

ANNA KELTON

(in disbelief)

What?

HARVEY WILEY

There is nothing else I can do
there. It's McCabe's law now. I'm
right back where I started from
before I arrived in Washington. A
scientist with no more political
power than the man in the street.

ANNA KELTON

McCabe is the one that should never
have arrived in Washington. How can
you give into him now?

ANNA KELTON pauses a moment, and as HARVEY WILEY almost
seems to have not heard, continues.

ANNA KELTON

And yet you tolerate it. Solicitor
McCabe insists that you lack
reserve. I'm inclined to think that
you have too much.

HARVEY WILEY

How is that?

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON

Your decisions are slow to be accepted by some people. Does that ever discourage you from making more?

HARVEY WILEY

I haven't really thought about that. There are always going to be people that are frustrating at times. Stubborn, too impatient to see the value of things.

ANNA KELTON

Maybe they're impatient to see how your influence really applies to their own lives. You impress people and win their hearts and then suddenly you're so far above them.

HARVEY WILEY

Do you think so?

ANNA KELTON

Well you know how ridiculous and emotional people can be. If only everyone had the logical mind of a chemist. Thinking about the viable solution...Instead, the little doers are the big talkers. We all know that you're right, but your political enemies apparently think you're easy to take advantage of. How can you stand that? Even me - you're letting me ramble on without question and what do I know?

HARVEY WILEY takes out his watch. He appears to be checking the time, but he is really looking at ANNA KELTON's picture once more.

ANNA KELTON

If I'm taking up your time, then never mind. I suppose you have to go.

HARVEY WILEY

No, now that you've brought all that up, I am curious. What about yourself? You are very accomplished and lovely. Why have you never married?

(CONTINUED)

ANNA KELTON
(surprised silence at such a
personal question, then
cleverly frank)
Nobody ever asked.

HARVEY WILEY
What if I asked you?

ANNA KELTON
(shocked)
Now you're talking entirely like a
scientist, dealing in unbelievable
hypotheticals - a past tense
hypothetical at that and
unfortunately I'm no chemical
experiment to solve it for you...

HARVEY WILEY
I think that you are. I've carried
your picture in my watch for this
entire decade. Will you marry me,
Anna?

ANNA KELTON
(almost surprised at herself)
Yes. That proposal I accept.

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING - 1912 - DAY

SUPER: 1912

HARVEY WILEY (V.O.)
(echoing)
*I have bought me a lot, about a
hectare, and have built me a house,
ten meters square, and soon, I
think, I shall take her there, my
tart little acid radicle.*

ANNA KELTON and HARVEY WILEY step into their primitive
automobile. Dr. Wiley has resigned and crowds of charwomen
and employees come out the front door of the Bureau to say
goodbye, many of the ladies weeping.

INT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY FOYER

MRS. GIRARD, in tears, hurries down the hallway, nearly
colliding with SOLICITOR McCABE. The man steps out of the
way, bewildered at her emotion. He looks out the windows
fronting the street to witness the commotion along with
SECRETARY WILSON.

(CONTINUED)

SECRETARY WILSON

Can you believe it? He is actually leaving. Maybe it will be good for him. This has been a strange thing, really. Just when the world had it all figured out, along came Harvey Wiley. It will have a mighty hard time finding someone to replace him.

EXT. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING - 1912 - DAY

Standing on the edge of the street...

REYNARD FORD

So you think Miss Kelton had a sudden change of mind a year or so ago, Miss Mallory?

VIVIAN MALLORY

Oh yes, Mr. Ford. Did you know she considered entering the Episcopalian Sisterhood before converting to the suffragist movement? And the next thing you know, she's married to The Crusading Chemist!

MRS. GIRARD

(tearfully)

If only we could have you in office forever, Dr. Wiley! You've done all you can, but it's such a shame that...

W.D. BIGELOW

(trying to lighten up the situation)

Well Dr. Wiley, you got your automobile and your farm and even your tart little acid radicle.

HARVEY WILEY

Continue to do what you can, Bigelow. A lot of harm has been done, but maybe it can be healed. I'll admit if it weren't for the Remsen Board I would have been a bachelor forever.

(CONTINUED)

W.D. BIGELOW

(laughs)

Oh, Dr. Wiley, if only it was possible to change some of the history for the better.

ANNA KELTON

The next best thing to changing history is remembering it. Remember?

INT. WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL DINING ROOM - 1926

At the back of the room...

WALTER WILLIAMS

Remembering...all the time since I've had to settle for that next best thing...remembering, but with regret.

HARVEY WILEY continues his speech in front of the audience.

HARVEY WILEY

If the Bureau of Chemistry had been permitted to enforce the law as it was written and as it tried to do, what would have been the condition now?

At the back of the room, WALTER WILLIAMS, remorseful, quietly turns away from the REPORTER and leaves.

As everyone leaves the hotel, the old friends and acquaintances can be seen walking with HARVEY WILEY and ANNA KELTON and HARVEY WILEY JR. and JOHN WILEY: VIVIAN MALLORY, REYNARD FORD, GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN, EDWARD MALLORY, W.D. BIGELOW, WILLIAM CARTER, ALICE LAKEY...

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D - V.O.)

The health of our people would be vastly improved and their life greatly extended.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - 1926

They drive off through the city night.

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D - V.O.)

The resistance of our people to infectious diseases would be

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D - V.O.) (cont'd)
greatly increased by a vastly
improved and more wholesome diet.

Which fades to another day...

EXT. WILEY FARM IN VIRGINIA - AFTERNOON

The Wileys drive up the driveway of their Virginia farm;
they step out of the car and walk towards the house.

HARVEY WILEY (CONT'D - V.O.)
Our example would be followed by
the civilized world and thus bring
to the whole universe the benefits
which our own people had received.
We would have been spared the
ignominy of great scientific men
bending their efforts to defeat the
purpose of one of the greatest laws
ever enacted for the protection of
the public welfare.

INT. WILEY LIVING ROOM

HARVEY WILEY is seated at his desk, writing

HARVEY WILEY CONT'D (V.O.)
Eminent officials of our Government
would have escaped the indignation
of outraged public opinion because
they permitted and encouraged these
frauds on the public. The cause of
a wholesome diet would not have
been put back for fifty or a
hundred years. And last but not least,
this History of a Crime would never
have been told.

FADE OUT

These words scroll across the screen:

In 1929, Dr. Harvey W. Wiley published his book *The History Of A Crime Against The Food Law*, which chronicles the passage of the Pure Food Law and its subsequent destruction. This book was suppressed, purposely mislaid from libraries, stolen and even destroyed so that very few original copies remain. Dr. Wiley died on June 30, 1930, exactly 24 years after the Pure Food Law was passed.