equipment set up by Dr. Spofford English and on the roof huge evaporating dishes filled with ether extractions of uranyl nitrate solutions.

Since much of my work would center around ultramicrochemical techniques, I was instructed to line up available related equipment. This included microscopes which were already becoming scarce because of the large demand and the halt of imports from Germany. When equipment trademarked Zeiss later arrived at the laboratory, I was reminded that we were at war with Germany and that U. S. currency would reach Germany through South America.

Initial attempts at restricting unauthorized persons from entering the laboratories on the top floor of the Jones Laboratory were feeble. Later a partition was installed in the corridor leading to Dr. Seaborg's laboratories and the responsibility for admittance was assigned to some recent high school graduates and a technical assistant. This, at times, created amusing situations such as when Dr. Schlesinger, Chairman of the Chemistry Department at the University of Chicago, knocked on the door and walked in without properly identifying himself. He was immediately stopped by one of the more aggressive young men who gruffly said, "Where do you think you're going?" The reply was a meek "But I am Dr. Schlesinger." "I don't care if you're Roosevelt. You don't get in here without proper identification," the young man retorted, and, not realizing the stranger's identity, pushed him outside the entrance. The difficulty was resolved when Dr. Seaborg identified Dr. Schlesinger.

The equipment from Zeiss and Bausch and Lomb, which included microscopes and micromanipulators allowed us to carry out reactions on sub-micro amounts of materials. Even before the isolation of the relatively pure plutonium, many experiments, to test the efficiency of different precipitates as carriers and using tracer amounts of ^{238}Pu, were executed on this scale to conserve the material for experimentation by other members of the group.

Essentially the reactions were performed in capillary cones (similar to centrifuge cones) of about 1 millimeter diameter, 3 to 4 mm in length and a capacity of approximately 1 microliter. Because of the cone size, reagents were transferred into them by means of handmade micropipets with tips as small as 0.01 microliter.

As a consequence of the rapid evaporation of water from such small volumes of solutions, the reaction vessels were placed in a specially designed moist chamber. The entire assembly was then put on a microscope stage where the progress of the reaction could be witnessed.