

"Well, I figured that they were from the University of Chicago and you might know".

Leonard said, "I don't know a thing about it, never heard of it". However, he didn't forget. When he came back here he told Warren Garrison who passed it to Gus Allen, who came to me and inquired, "What should we do?"

I reached for the telephone right then and got the security office—someplace downtown I thought—and told them that a matter had come up that I felt ought to be discussed. I thought that maybe in a half-hour someone ought to be walking in. Well, within a minute a fellow came into my office, put an identification card in front of me, and introduced himself as Captain so-and-so of Counter Intelligence—I think they called it CIC at the time. I don't know whether any of you people knew it but this fellow was one of the workers in our chemistry stock room. A very efficient man whom we took for granted as a useful fixture. He wasn't the chief of the stockroom. I thought earlier that he seemed rather superior for his modest job. That this apparent underling was a captain in the Army was a shocker! When he asked about the problem I, of course, told him about the incident in detail. His response was totally unpredictable: "What is plutonium?" That was another shocker! I had to tell him that that's what he was there to protect.

Now, the reason I like this last story particularly is because it later appeared in a modified version in *The New Yorker*. It was in an article by Daniel Lang* telling about atomic energy incidents involving the Army. And, of course, you would know that the Army doesn't demean itself in such matters. They told the story factually, how they really couldn't do anything about the incident except to pray that such things wouldn't happen again. However, they didn't know how to prevent them and could depend only on the good sense of the people involved. All that is true. But the thing that was not mentioned in this story was the question, "What is plutonium?" I think now they know.

GLENN T. SEABORG You had me worried for a moment. I didn't realize we had such a fellow in our stockroom. Maybe it wasn't so serious if he didn't know what plutonium was.

Next, I'd like to introduce Charles Coryell who was the chief of the section on fission products. Nathan Sugarman was one of his associate section chiefs and Tony Turkevitch was one of the other associate leaders. This is the section that played a very vital role also in the

*Daniel Lang's stories from *The New Yorker* were collected and published in *Early Tales of the Atomic Age*, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1948.