

THE SUIT

Judge Gary tells me - but emphasizes that it is confidential, doesn't see how I can use it - that when it became certain that the government would bring suit against the SO he thought that they (the SO) by making certain compromises could have settled. If I understand him, he meant voluntarily reducing their degree of control. He said this to one of their lawyers, the result of which was that William Rockefeller and John Archibald came to see him. He says that he told them what he told the lawyer, that he believed it would be possible to make a fair settlement. "They seemed grateful" he said, "and I think they went away from me decided to accept the suggestion." However, they of course at once saw John D. Rockefeller and he thought that they could do better; but, as a result of the talk John Archibald and the Judge thinks John D. Rockefeller, though he is not perfectly sure, went to Washington to see the President.

Gary says the President saw them for just two minutes and then turned them out of the office. "I could have settled it," Gary claims. "I knew what was in the President's mind, knew that he was not vindictive, that what he was trying to do was to protect the public against wrong. He believed my intentions were good because I had been frank with him from the start. He did not believe in the SO men because they had fought him and defied him from the start. They had done this publicly and he was outraged and angry about it."

It was righteous indignation on Roosevelt's part, Gary says. He had come to mistrust the SO people. In this interview Gary says that he had the same experience with Harriman.