

## CL. 2—Supremacy of the Constitution, Laws, and Treaties

vation was irrelevant to the state court and the situs of the picketing was the sole inquiry. Thus, there was deemed to be no realistic risk of state interference with Board jurisdiction.<sup>116</sup>

Second, in determining whether the picketing was protected, the Board would have been concerned with the situs of the picketing, since under federal labor laws the employer has no absolute right to prohibit union activity on his property. Preemption of state court jurisdiction was denied, nonetheless, in this case on two joined bases. One, preemption is not required in those cases in which the party who could have presented the protection issue to the Board has not done so and the other party to the dispute has no acceptable means of doing so. In this case, the union could have filed with the Board when the company demanded removal of the pickets, but did not, and the company could not file with the Board at all. Two, even if the matter is not presented to the Board, preemption is called for if there is a risk of erroneous state court adjudication of the protection issue that is unacceptable, so that one must look to the strength of the argument that the activity is protected. While the state court had to make an initial determination that the trespass was not protected under federal law, the same determination the Board would have made, in the instance of trespassory conduct, the risk of erroneous determination is small, because experience shows that a trespass is far more likely to be unprotected than protected.<sup>117</sup>

Introduction of these two balancing tests into the *Garmon* rationale substantially complicates determining when state courts do not have jurisdiction, and will no doubt occasion much more litigation in state courts than has previously existed.

Another series of cases involves not a Court-created exception to the *Garmon* rule but the applicability and interpretation of § 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act,<sup>118</sup> which authorizes suits in federal, and state,<sup>119</sup> courts to enforce collective bargaining agreements. The Court has held that in enacting § 301, Congress authorized actions based on conduct arguably subject to the NLRA, so that the *Garmon* preemption doctrine does not preclude judicial enforcement of duties and obligations which would otherwise be within the exclusive jurisdiction of the NLRB so long as those duties and obligations are

<sup>116</sup> *Sears, Roebuck & Co. v. Carpenters*, 436 U.S. 180, 190–98 (1978).

<sup>117</sup> 436 U.S. at 199–207.

<sup>118</sup> 61 Stat. 156 (1947), 29 U.S.C. § 185(a).

<sup>119</sup> *Charles Dowd Box Co. v. Courtney*, 368 U.S. 502 (1962). The state courts must, however, apply federal law. *Local 174, Teamsters Union v. Lucas Flour Co.*, 369 U.S. 95 (1962).