

Sec. 8—Powers of Congress

Cl. 3—Power to Regulate Commerce

riding objects of deference, even in doubtful cases.¹⁰⁸³ In regard to navigation, which had given rise to *Gibbons v. Ogden* and *Cooley*, the Court generally upheld much state regulation on the basis that the activities were local and did not demand uniform rules.¹⁰⁸⁴

As a general rule, although the Court during this time did not permit states to regulate a purely interstate activity or prescribe prices for purely interstate transactions,¹⁰⁸⁵ it did sustain a great deal of price and other regulation imposed prior to or subsequent to the travel in interstate commerce of goods produced for such commerce or received from such commerce. For example, decisions late in the period upheld state price-fixing schemes applied to goods intended for interstate commerce.¹⁰⁸⁶

However, the states always had an obligation to act nondiscriminatorily. Just as in the taxing area, regulation that was parochially oriented, to protect local producers or industries, for instance, was not evaluated under ordinary standards but subjected to practically *per se* invalidation. The mirror image of *Welton v. Missouri*,¹⁰⁸⁷ the tax case, was *Minnesota v. Barber*,¹⁰⁸⁸ in which the Court invalidated a facially neutral law that in its practical effect discriminated against interstate commerce and in favor of local commerce. The law required fresh meat sold in the state to have been inspected by its own inspectors with 24 hours of slaughter. Thus, meat slaughtered in other states was excluded from the Minnesota market.

The principle of the *Barber* case has a long pedigree of application.¹⁰⁸⁹ State protectionist regulation on behalf of local milk pro-

¹⁰⁸³ *E.g.*, *Mauer v. Hamilton*, 309 U.S. 598 (1940) (ban on operation of any motor vehicle carrying any other vehicle above the head of the operator). By far, the example of the greatest deference is *South Carolina Highway, Dep't v. Barnwell Bros.*, 303 U.S. 177 (1938), in which the Court upheld, in a surprising Stone opinion, truck weight and width restrictions prescribed by practically no other state (in terms of the width, no other).

¹⁰⁸⁴ *E.g.*, *Transportation Co. v. City of Chicago*, 99 U.S. 635 (1879); *Willamette Iron Bridge Co. v. Hatch*, 125 U.S. 1 (1888). See *Kelly v. Washington*, 302 U.S. 1 (1937) (upholding state inspection and regulation of tugs operating in navigable waters, in absence of federal law).

¹⁰⁸⁵ *E.g.*, *Western Union Tel. Co. v. Foster*, 247 U.S. 105 (1918); *Lemke v. Farmers Grain Co.*, 258 U.S. 50 (1922); *State Comm'n v. Wichita Gas Co.*, 290 U.S. 561 (1934).

¹⁰⁸⁶ *Milk Control Board v. Eisenberg Co.*, 306 U.S. 346 (1939) (milk); *Parker v. Brown*, 317 U.S. 341 (1943) (raisins).

¹⁰⁸⁷ 91 U.S. 275 (1875).

¹⁰⁸⁸ 136 U.S. 313 (1890).

¹⁰⁸⁹ *E.g.*, *Brimmer v. Rebman*, 138 U.S. 78 (1891) (law requiring postslaughter inspection in each county of meat transported over 100 miles from the place of slaughter); *Dean Milk Co. v. City of Madison*, 340 U.S. 349 (1951) (city ordinance preventing selling of milk as pasteurized unless it had been processed and bottled at an approved plant within a radius of five miles from the central square of Madison). As the latter case demonstrates, it is constitutionally irrelevant that other Wisconsin