

Sec. 8—Powers of Congress

Cl. 3—Power to Regulate Commerce

a county courthouse because one-half of the cost—\$225,000—was attributable to materials shipped from out of state.⁹²²

The act was even applied to a retail distributor of fuel oil, all of whose sales were local, but who obtained the oil from a wholesaler who imported it from another state.⁹²³ Indeed, “[t]his Court has consistently declared that in passing the National Labor Relations Act, Congress intended to and did vest in the Board the fullest jurisdictional breadth constitutionally permissible under the Commerce Clause.”⁹²⁴ Thus, the Board formulated jurisdictional standards which assumed the requisite effect on interstate commerce from a prescribed dollar volume of business and these standards have been implicitly approved by the Court.⁹²⁵

Fair Labor Standards Act.—In 1938, Congress enacted the Fair Labor Standards Act. The measure prohibited not only the shipment in interstate commerce of goods manufactured by employees whose wages are less than the prescribed maximum but also the employment of workers in the production of goods for such commerce at other than the prescribed wages and hours. Interstate commerce was defined by the act to mean “trade, commerce, transportation, transmission, or communication among the several States or from any State to any place outside thereof.” It was further provided that “for the purposes of this act an employee shall be deemed to have been engaged in the production of goods [that is, for interstate commerce] if such employee was employed . . . in any process or occupation directly essential to the production thereof in any State.”⁹²⁶

Sustaining an indictment under the act, a unanimous Court, speaking through Chief Justice Stone, said: “The motive and purpose of the present regulation are plainly to make effective the con-

⁹²² *Journeyman Plumbers’ Union v. County of Door*, 359 U.S. 354 (1959).

⁹²³ *NLRB v. Reliance Fuel Oil Co.*, 371 U.S. 224 (1963).

⁹²⁴ 371 U.S. at 226. *See also* *Guss v. Utah Labor Bd.*, 353 U.S. 1, 3 (1957); *NLRB v. Fainblatt*, 306 U.S. 601, 607 (1939).

⁹²⁵ *NLRB v. Reliance Fuel Oil Co.*, 371 U.S. 224, 225 n.2 (1963); *Liner v. Jafco*, 375 U.S. 301, 303 n.2 (1964).

⁹²⁶ 52 Stat. 1060, as amended, 63 Stat. 910 (1949). The 1949 amendment substituted the phrase “in any process or occupation directly essential to the production thereof in any State” for the original phrase “in any process or occupation necessary to the production thereof in any State.” In *Mitchell v. H.B. Zachry Co.*, 362 U.S. 310, 317 (1960), the Court noted that the change “manifests the view of Congress that on occasion courts . . . had found activities to be covered, which . . . [Congress now] deemed too remote from commerce or too incidental to it.” The 1961 amendments to the act, 75 Stat. 65, departed from previous practices of extending coverage to employees individually connected to interstate commerce to cover all employees of any “enterprise” engaged in commerce or production of commerce; thus, there was an expansion of employees covered but not, of course, of employers, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 *et seq.* *See* 29 U.S.C. §§ 203(r), 203(s), 206(a), 207(a).