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Commerce Clause Was More Narrow

The article "[Court View of the Commerce Clause Waxed and Waned, Is Now Broad](#)" (page one, July 14), includes an excerpt of Chief Justice John Marshall's opinion from *Gibbons v. Ogden*: "Commerce among the States cannot stop at the external boundary line of each State." The full sentence, which wasn't published, concludes with the clause, "but may be introduced into the interior." Without that phrase, the sentence is nonsensical.

To paraphrase Sheldon Richman, a former senior editor at the Cato Institute, some of Chief Justice Marshall's opinions could be taken out of context often enough to allow the commerce clause to be used in support of anything that could conceivably affect interstate commerce.

However, Chief Justice Marshall wrote: "While the commerce power does not stop at the external boundary of a State, it does not extend to commerce which is completely internal. State . . . laws for regulating transportation and the internal commerce of a State fall within the state police power and are not within the power granted to Congress."

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