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# Masthead

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# WESTERN RESERVE LAW REVIEW

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## NOTES

### *Federal Regulation of Natural Gas Companies—The East Ohio Gas Case*

THE GROWTH and development of the natural gas industry has been a business phenomenon of the past seventy years.<sup>1</sup> This development was accompanied by business practices which resulted in excessive prices charged to local consumers.<sup>2</sup> Individual states, attempting to protect the local consumer, found themselves constitutionally unable to control some natural gas transactions directly affecting local prices.<sup>3</sup> In 1938, Congress,

<sup>1</sup> Fortune, Dec., 1949, p. 107.

<sup>2</sup> SCHUMAN, THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY 240 (1940): "The Federal Trade Commission concluded in 1934 that fifteen holding company groups controlled over 80 per cent of all the natural-gas trunk pipe lines of the United States." Included in sixteen specific evils found existent in the gas industry was that of excessive profits in many natural gas sales between affiliates.

<sup>3</sup> Public Utilities Commission of Rhode Island v. Attleboro Steam & Electric Co., 273 U.S. 83, 47 Sup. Ct. 294 (1927); Missouri *ex rel.* Barrett v. Kansas Natural Gas Co., 265 U.S. 298, 44 Sup. Ct. 544 (1924).