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The fastest transcontinental air coach flights in history will go into service April 9, when American Airlines begins low cost flights in 70-passenger DC-6 airplanes.

The new schedules will clip four hours from the previous best air coach time westbound between New York and Los Angeles and $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours eastbound. Coast-to-coast coach flights have previously been operated in slower 70-passenger DC-4 aircraft. Elapsed time will be 10 hours and 5 minutes eastbound and 11 hours and 45 minutes on the return flight.

Three 52-passenger DC-6s formerly used in regular Flagship service are nearing the completion of extensive modifications to fit them for air coach flights.

Such luxury accommodations as berth facilities, large buffet and coat closet are being removed to make way for additional seats. More windows, new type reclining chairs, a smaller buffet and less spacious closets are being installed. The modified planes will have overhead racks built to hold small items of hand luggage.

Because of the interior design changes, the DC-6 air coaches will be roomy and comfortable, according to R.E.S. Deichler, vice president-sales for American Airlines. Passengers will have access to large sight-seeing windows and the new chairs are only two inches narrower than in the luxury version.

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Changes to make air coach service more convenient for passengers will go into effect with the beginning of the low cost DC-6 flights, Deichler said. The new flights will leave New York after breakfast and arrive at Los Angeles in time for dinner, making only one stop, at Chicago.

Telephone reservations, formerly prohibited by tariff regulations, are now permitted. Passengers starting or ending their trips at points other than New York, Chicago or Los Angeles may now book passage on one through ticket.

Replacing the DC-4s with the faster and newer DC-6s will accomplish American's expressed policy of using the most modern equipment available for air coach service, Deichler said. The company went on record with the Civil Aeronautics Board last fall as opposing the principle of using obsolescent aircraft on the low cost flights.

Scheduled transcontinental air coach schedules were first introduced last Dec. 27 at the new low fare of \$110 coast-to-coast or \$35 between New York and Chicago. No extra fare is to be charged for the DC-6 flights.

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