

# Democrat and Chronicle

*Without or with offence to friends or foes I sketch your world exactly as it goes.—Byron*

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## Reason Is Grounded

Few occupations inspire the admiration accorded the airline pilot. He is a man of great skills. He is a responsible person, in charge of expensive machinery. To him thousands of persons entrust their lives, confident that through storm or sunshine he will carry them safely to their destinations.

Now, sooner or later, this strike of pilots on the American Airlines must be settled. We believe that because we wingless citizens do trust and admire them, the pilots should show their sense of responsibility and move to settle their dispute. Just now they are in the position of the puppy shaking a huge rag doll. They have the power to ruin the doll and can do so, to an extent calling for much money and time to repair it. The puppy isn't malicious, he is just conscious of new-found strength. We think the pilots must be in much the same frame of mind.

The pilots already have interrupted the lives of other employes of the lines. They have put the company back many months in earnings. They have discommoded thousands of travelers who have come to depend upon air travel as an essential in their lives.

Still to be settled is a breach of contract action by the company. We know nothing of the court processes but the pilots should realize that they run a big risk in permitting the matter to go to trial. They certainly cannot win much sympathy from the public which is convinced their excuse for the strike is ex-

remely weak. They are striking against transcontinental routes which sometimes call for more than the eight hours' flying time, striking despite the fact that every official ruling has supported the company in its effort to develop this modern way of crossing the country.

Flying men tell us that there is little danger in the air; the critical times are at landing and taking off. There probably is less strain on the pilot taking one long hop than there is in much shorter "milk run" flights.

By speeding an agreement with the company, the pilots will take a long step toward restoring the respect and admiration in which they have been held.