

# THE DAILY NEWS

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## Feather-Bed in the Sky

AMERICAN Airlines is the only company serving Westchester at its County Airport with regularly scheduled flights. We are, consequently, interested in the strike of the AFL Air Line Pilots Association which has closed down that service as well as all other flights by that company.

The pilots are striking because the westbound transcontinental non-stop flight requires a scheduled 35 minutes more than eight hours, and in event of bad weather perhaps slightly longer. The union points to the eight-hour limit for a single crew flying domestic air routes. That rule went into effect in 1931, when flying conditions were far different from those of today.

Farther, the Civil Aeronautics Board, which established the 1931 rule, has now specifically authorized nonstop transcontinental flights up to 10 hours in duration. And surely the CAB, as well as the company itself, is as interested in flying safety as is the union. On transoceanic flights,

more dangerous, 12 hours are allowed.

Bear in mind, too, that this extra 35 minutes on the westbound transcontinental flight is not a daily strain upon the pilot. On these nonstop flights the pilot flies only 10 days a month, or five round trips, with an average 22-hour rest between flights. Too much of the actual flying is done by "Iron Mike", the automatic pilot.

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To work thus only 10 days a month, with 20 days off, at a salary ranging between \$18,000 and \$19,000 a year, does not seem to be an excessive hardship. To hire extra pilots for that extra scheduled 35 minutes on westbound flights, or possibly slightly longer in bad weather, might result in higher fares. And we are sure the public does not want that.

It adds up, in brief, to union make-work, feather-bedding, as it is called. And like pie in the sky, that is as unjustified to demand as it is unreasonable to expect.