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# Airline Strike Spotlights Air Travel

Reliance of our people on air transportation is spotlighted by a strike of American Airlines pilots. The extent to which we have adopted the world's newest and fastest mode of travel is hardly realized until something like this interrupts its smooth flow.

Not all the rights and wrongs of the American's dispute can be determined at the moment. And few will deny the pilots' right to use a legitimate weapon, like a strike, to gain their ends. Yet it is to be regretted that such a bludgeon is employed, a wildly swinging cudgel that injures innocent bystanders even more than it does the supposed target.

Pilots are striking because of our newest forward step in transcontinental flying—the coast to coast non-stop. They say the westbound flight requires several minutes more flying than the eight hours which is standard for overland flying. Their complaint has been overruled by every official body having anything to do with aviation or labor practices. But they know they have a tremendous power to exercise, and they do so.

It is doubtful that the flyers are too much concerned with any threat to safety in a more than eight-hour flight. Such longer hours are the regular thing in transoceanic trips. And it is doubtful that they really wish every plane to carry a feather-bedding extra crew to take the controls for the final 25 or 35 minutes of the journey. They surely have an interest, as well as a duty, in seeing the transcontinental flight prosper and grow. A long strike will damage their own way of life. Worse, it will hamper the development of the art they practice and to which most of them, as individuals, are devoted.