

BEAUMONT, TEXAS
ENTERPRISE

Strike of Airline Pilots

The United States has had many strikes during the past half-century, and many of them were nationally important. Some had tragic consequences. But it is believed the strike of airline pilots against American Airlines is unique, as it may well be, considering the reason why the pilots struck and the fact that the airlines company sued its employes for \$1,250,000 because they refused to work.

The strike is not over wages, fringe benefits, time-and-a-half or any of the other issues that generate trouble between employers and unions. The pilots say if they are compelled to fly more than eight hours a day, the safety of the traveling public, that is the air-traveling public, is jeopardized.

It takes a plane longer to fly westward across the country than to fly eastward. The east-bound flight is made in little less than eight hours. The westbound flight takes little more than eight hours, or about half an hour more. This is the bone of contention, and it is assuredly one of the most curious "bones" that

ever caused a strike in the United States or anywhere else.

The airlines company says half an hour more of flying time is not going to hurt anybody, the pilots or their passengers. Aeronautical authorities of the federal government agreed with the airline officials that it is not hazardous or deleterious to health for pilots to fly eight hours and a half in a modern airplane, which is one of the most comfortable conveyances for transporting people hither and yond ever devised.

The pilots disagreed with the federal authorities and walked out—or off, assuming that they descended from their planes when they quit working.

In as much as some pilots make up to \$19,000 a year for working 12 to 15 days a month and might conceivably earn less if the strike succeeds in accomplishing its purpose, some observers remark, "Nothing like this ever happened before."