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The Ill Wind

There is an ill wind blowing from the west coast towards the east coast, across AFL airline pilots union headquarters that has nothing but ill effects for the traveling public.

This particular wind is most unconsiderate of pilots, because it slows an airplane traveling west from New York to Los Angeles to a full eight hours and 35 minutes for the trip. The same airplane traveling from Los Angeles eastbound for New York can make the trip in only seven hours and 35 minutes.

It is that nasty wind from the west that makes the difference.

The ill the wind carries from the airline pilots union headquarters probably has nothing to do with wind currents or other phenomenon of nature, but picks up some taint from the AFL scheming department.

The pilots union master planning department arbitrarily decided that eight hours is all the time that a pilot and his crew of three should spend in an airplane traveling from New York to Los Angeles. This must have been a rather tricky determination because of the fact that the speedy east bound pilots could arrive at their cross continent destination in seven hours and 35 minutes, a whole 25 minutes short of the time required to fly west against all that union wind.

The airlines management thought the wind was a natural factor that could not be controlled and had the nerve to ask pilots to fly from New York to Los Angeles, particularly in view of the fact that overseas pilots accept assignments on the basis of a 12 hour limitation rather than the eight hour or some other arbitrarily assigned period.

Now the AFL pilots union has called a strike against American Airlines, the nation's largest air carrier with a total of some 1,200 pilots.

Transcontinental passengers are thereby discommoded and inconvenienced because of a company wide strike over a trumped up situation that concerns actually only a handful of pilots who normally would fly from New York to Los Angeles about twice a month against a prevailing wind, an extra 35 minutes. This strike can hardly be classed as being "in the public interest" and becomes downright silly in detail.