

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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*Where The Spirit Of The Lord Is, There Is Liberty*  
II Corinthians 3:17

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## Too Big A Strike Price

Over a dispute which involves only three transcontinental flights a day, a shameful situation has arisen. American Airlines, the nation's largest domestic carrier, has had the choice of a strike-induced daily revenue loss of \$750,000 or laying off 12,000 employes. Simple economics dictated the layoff.

As a result, an army of workers having no direct connection with the pilots' strike will soon be out of work. The company's personnel structure faces disintegration if the strike continues long enough to force these workers into other employment. Meanwhile 970 flights a day are removed from the service of the U.S. public.

The pilots' strike is based on unwillingness to accept more than eight hours' continuous duty on the non-stop transcontinental flights recently inaugurated with the newer planes. Yet the Civil Aeronautics Board said there was no safety hazard in this stretch of duty when it recently gave the airlines permission to apply a 10-hour flight limit. Since pay is admittedly no issue for the pilots' association, the strike is based on the discredited issue of safety or on a desire to make more jobs through use of standby crews.

Senators Goldwater of Arizona and McCarran of Nevada have called on the pilots to accept mediation and return to work. Mediation has now begun. Certainly every fair-minded American will agree that virtual disruption of a large company is too big a price for any labor disagreement.