Stranded?

Travelers brace for Northwest strike could possibly change the types of planes they fly to accommodate a larger number of travelers." To prepare for the worst, officials at Detroit Metro are working on a contingency plan to assist passengers affected by the strike. Of all the travelers whom the strike affects, business travelers are among those who will be most inconvenienced by a Northwest shutdown. Tom Bambard, an advertising executive who works in Auburn Hills, said his company, Parks Production, will be inconvenienced by a strike. "Our company will avoid ticketing with Northwest starting next week," he said as he headed toward the security gate. "Our business just can't afford to deal with the slowdowns anymore."

BY REBECCA WALTMAN APECIAL WRITER

By REBECCA WALTHAN
SPECIAL WHITE!

Northwest Airlines' 6,150
pilots may go on strike at 12:01
n.m. Saturday, creating
headaches for Oakland County
travelers and travel agents alike.

"Wo are really trying to stay
away from ticketing passengers
on Northwest," said Dina Roose,
manager of Oakland Travel Service in Troy. "In fact, I have a
honeymooning couple flying out
on Northwest on Aug. 30 and
they are shaking in their shoes."

Northwest Airlines, the
nation's fourth largest airline
with 50,000 employees, is currently in negotiations with all
six of its U.S. labor unions. More
than 70 percent of Wayne County Detroit Metropolitan Airport
passengers fly on Northwest.

"If Northwest strikes, a lot of
people from our area simply
won't be able to travel," said
Dean Markwardt, owner of Suburban Travel in Rochester. "The
other airlines that fly out of
Detroit Metro just won't have
enough seats to accommodate
those who are affected by the
strike."

Impasse

Impasse

The National Mediation Beard declared an impasse in negotiations between Northwest Airlines and its pilots union, the Airlines and its pilots union, the Airline Pilots Association, International on duly 30. After declaring the impasse, a 30-day cooling off period began, but that period is scheduled to end Saturday. If no agreement is reached the towen Northwest and the union by the midnight deadline, the pilots will strike.

President Clinton, however, could order pilots to return for up to another 60 days of work as soon as the strike is calided. A Clinton-appointed panel called the President's Emergency Board would convene at that time to listen to both Northwest Airlines and the ALPA. After 30 days the board, acting as arbi-

that or, would suggest a plan to the pilot's union and to Northwest. The union and Northwest would have 30 more days to consider the plan at which point the pilots could strike if they felt the plan did not meet their demands.

that at that time were worth-less," he said. "We shared in the said in 1993 and now we want to spainful and embarraseing for us because we feel that this is because we feel that this is More than 1993 and now we want to spainful and embarraseing for us because we feel that this is seen a suit of the said in the said

Passenger anger

Passenger anger:
Are the pilots right to strike?
Patty Riker from Bloomfield
Hills doesn't think so. "I think
that these negotiations should
end and that the pilots are making enough money already," she
said as she checked in late one
afternoon at Northwest's Detroit
Motre terminal.

is painful and embarraseing for us because we feel that this is our airline, too."

Jim Faulknor, spokesporson for Northwest Airlines, could not be reached for comment.

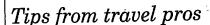
Even the threat of a pilots' strike is affecting local travelers plans. At the baggage claim area at Detroit Metro, Beverly Hills resident Mag Peters stood waiting for her mother's luggage to slide down the ramp.

"The strike has definitely affected our vacation plans. We were supposed to go to British Columbia on Sept. 1; but we had to make back up plans instead, she said, glancing occasionally at the turning carousel. "So, now we have two vacations planned: one to Harbor Springs in case the strike happens, er, if not, then we'll go to British Columbia."

Limited ontions







If you are planning a trip in the next few weeks on Northwest Airlines, here are some tips from local travel agents that might help alleviate the stress of a strike situation:

If your trip is important, book another ticket on another airline to be safe. Booking a refundable ticket is the safest bet but will be more expensive.

Make sure that your ticket is a paper one, not an e-ticket (electronic ticket.) E-tickets are tickets that are booked ahead, entered on Northwest's computer, and require only the traveler to present positive identification upon check-in. Some of our customers have "e-tickets" which could be a problem if their flight is canceled because of the strike," Dean Markwardt of Suburban Travel in Rochester. The rea-

son is while other airlines will accept ticket transfers signed over by Northwest, they won't accept electronic ticket transfers from Northwest.

Check out ather travel options. Sometimes traveling by car or by train can be faster than you think. A trip to Chicago's O'Hare Airport by car from Detroit Metro Airport is roughly 292 miles, or approximately five-hours depending on traffic.

If you must travel with Northwest on or around the strike deadline, know your options with other carriers. "We are constantly looking at other airlines for backup bus far, it's been difficult to secure," said Mary Ellen Rood, owner of the Travel Agent in Bloomfield Hills. "It just doesn't look good for any of us."

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