



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0565

James R. Reed Papers  
1949-1966  
14 folders

*Articles, announcements, memoranda, newsletters, agreements, reports, and newspaper clippings on Flight Engineers' International Association's (FEIA) labor disputes from a flight engineer for Trans World Airlines (TWA).*

### BIOGRAPHY:

A flight engineer for TWA from 1948-1983, James Reed served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the TWA Chapter of the Flight Engineers' International Association (FEIA), an AFL-CIO union representing 3,500 flight engineers which was involved in two notable labor disputes against TWA in the 1950s and 1960s.

Following the Air Line Pilots Association's (ALPA) new contract with TWA changing pay structure from a flat salary to an hourly rate incorporating gross aircraft weight, night time, and equipment type into wages, FEIA threatened a strike in 1952 to receive the same type of pay structure. Through the intervention of Howard Hughes, the union achieved its demands without staging a strike.

The most significant action, a six day walkout from February 18-24, 1961 resulting in the grounding of half the flights for six airlines, was precipitated by ALPA's attempt to acquire FEIA and transfer flight engineer positions to the expected group of surplus pilots (three per cockpit) resulting from the transition to jet aircraft following the retirement of the Douglas 4 piston engine. Staging the walkout as a desperation move to save their jobs, FEIA prevailed and a settlement was brokered on June 21, 1962 (and ratified on May 2, 1963), whereupon FEIA retained its autonomy and flight engineers were allowed to serve on jets until standard retirement age.

### PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from James R. Reed as accession KA1598 on January 22, 2008. An addition, KA1673, was received on August 18, 2008.

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## PREFERRED CITATION:

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## DESCRIPTION:

This collection contains articles, announcements, memoranda, newsletters, agreements, reports, and newspaper clippings on FEIA's labor disputes with TWA.

## INVENTORY:

**BOX 001**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Folder 1  | Articles on airline labor disputes, 1957-1961                                   |
| Folder 2  | Electronic course transcript certificate, September 1959                        |
| Folder 3  | Emergency Board Report to negotiate contract between FEIA and TWA, July 9, 1952 |
| Folder 4  | FEIA newsletter, announcements, 1957-1958                                       |
| Folder 5  | FEIA-Teamsters agreement, 1955-1956   |
| Folder 6  | FEIA-TWA agreement, May 2, 1963   |
| Folder 7  | FEIA-TWA agreements, FEIA constitution, 1949-1955                               |
| Folder 8  | FEIA-TWA dispute, 1960-1962 (1 of 2)  |
| Folder 9  | FEIA-TWA dispute, 1960-1962 (2 of 2)  |
| Folder 10 | International Aviation Machinists Union Strike, 1966                            |
| Folder 11 | Newspaper clippings on FEIA strike, 1960-1962                                   |

- Folder 12 Newspaper clippings on FEIA-Teamsters dispute, 1955-1957
  - Folder 13 Report of Presidential Commission on airlines controversy,  
October 17, 1961
- (KA1673)
- Folder 14 Labor dispute resolutions, 1952-1958