

## Is This Any Way to Run an Airline?

Tom Paxton

Oh, the airline ticket reservation counter lady  
Is a very special friend of mine  
When I asked her in the morning if my flight was ready  
She assured me it was right on time  
Oh, the taxi to the airport cost me seven or eight  
And the porter got another buck or two  
When some joker on the microphone said, "Sorreee  
But we've got a little bad news for you"  
It's getting cloudy up in Boston  
Montreal is socked in tight  
Washington is closed for Christmas  
Philadelphia's out on strike  
Minnesota's up to here in snow  
And Tulsa's closed tonight you know  
Please be patient five more minutes  
Hope you have a pleasant flight  
Oh, the airline passenger relations representative  
Was very sympathetic to me  
Just as soon as we completely overhaul your astro-liner  
You'll be airborne just as quick as can be  
Then of course we'll need a stewardess but never you mind  
We'll have one trained in plenty of time  
Won't you settle in our astro-lounge in comfort  
We'll be leaving at a quarter of nine  
But the astro-  
lounge was crowded and the coffee shop was crammed  
The coke machine was broken and they closed the hot dog stand  
I couldn't find a magazine, they broke the cigarette machine  
The shoeshine boy was sleeping, and my radio was jammed  
Oh, I carefully examined every corner of the building  
For the next fourteen hours or so  
And the bulletins kept coming from the reservation counter  
"Yessiree we're getting ready to go  
For we're flying in another plane from London you see  
Any minute now that plane should appear  
You'll be leaving in a minute, providing  
This little bit of nasty weather should clear"  
For it's getting cloudy up in Boston  
And it's snowing up in Maine  
Los Angeles is hopeless  
And Chicago's getting rain  
You've had a couple dirty days  
But your ticket's good for thirty days  
And when the runway is completed  
Would you like to board your plan