

# Do You Want

## To Go To Rome In Two Hours?

by JOHN HAFFERT

**T**hey call it the Mach-2.

With a speed of 1,400 miles an hour, it will carry a hundred passengers across the ocean in two and a half hours. The French seem willing to put out \$200 million to build it now and the British aircraft manufacturers, badly hurt by the "jump" America got on the world with the present jets, want to help.

### Certainty

Supersonic passenger flights in the near future are a certainty.

Most of the major airlines would like to see them delayed . . . because the "Six hour jets" (which cost \$5 million each) have them in debt.

But if the French and British beat America to the Mach-2, the present American lead will be reversed. So to prevent this, American manufacturers are thinking of a Mach-3 . . . to travel over 2,000 miles an hour. And this is giving British and French manufacturers pause . . . because if they invest in the Mach-2 now, America might immediately overtake them with the Mach-3. And everyone in the industry is still very much aware of the fact that one corporation alone (General Dynamics) lost \$425 million in the race to develop the current jets.

But it is still almost a certainty that, *if you like*, you may soon be able to hop to Rome in two hours, and from New York to Los Angeles in even less.

### Will You WANT this?

The other day a friend told us he had just been up to Boston from Easton, Pa.:

"I chartered a plane," he said, "picked up a party at La Guardia, and continued to Boston where I

did my business and came back the same day."

"Why did you *charter* a plane," we asked, "when you could have driven to Newark Airport in an hour, taken a conventional commuter plane to Boston, and probably saved a \$100?"

"This way," he answered, "I didn't have to wait for any flight. All in all I saved about four hours. And four hours of my time and energy are more valuable."

This is a true story. It happened just the other day. The same kind of true story happens in many parts of the world, often, *every* day. Time, to many persons, is valuable. And such persons will even pay more, if necessary, to get to their destination in the easiest and quickest way.

And when we can fly to Rome in two hours, we cut down on the disadvantage of the *geographical time difference*.

A typical jet flight now leaves New York at 7:00 P.M. and deposits you in Rome about the same time the next morning. You have flown about six hours, to which you add a five hour time difference between the East Coast of the United States and Europe. (All Europe, except Portugal and Britain, are five hours later than Eastern U.S.).

You get to your hotel at 8:00 in the morning, Rome time, and of course you are ready for bed. You haven't had the night's sleep to which you are accustomed, and Rome is brightly stirring with a new day!

Probably you'll decide to sleep during the morning. You *won't* want to sleep the whole day, because then you would be awake all

the next night, and be right back where you started the next day . . . ready for bed as Rome is waking up.

You wake up about noon, after only four . . . or at the most, five . . . hours of sleep. It feels like waking up in the middle of the night and you wonder where you are . . . and maybe even what you are doing there at such an untimely hour!

It's dinner time, because the Romans take their main meal at noon. You just feel like orange juice and coffee . . . although you'd rather sleep.

And so it goes on for about three days, for the average person, until your body adjusts to a five hour time difference.

Now what happens on the Mach-3?

Well, instead of arriving in Rome in the morning (Rome time) you can leave New York at 5:00 P.M., have dinner during the flight, and be in Rome at midnight (Rome time). It will be only 7:00 P.M. according to the time to which you are accustomed (presuming that you live on the East Coast of the U.S.), but the sleepiness of Rome will take its toll, and you'll be in bed by 1:00 or 2:00 Rome time, sound asleep. And even though you may get a late start the next morning, you will adjust much more easily.

### Coming Home

Many persons don't like to "jet" to Europe, and they like propeller planes even less, because of the combination of the tediousness of the flight (on which most cannot sleep much) compounded by the blow to their routine suffered

through the five hour time difference. And Mach-2, or Mach-3, are going to make a big difference on this score as well as in the actual saving of time.

But what about coming home?

Well, leaving Rome at 7:00 P.M. will put you in New York at 4:00 P.M., *three hours earlier* than when you left. And now you will be accustomed to Rome time (if you have been in Rome a few days), but again the adjustment won't be too bad. You can always find a reason to stay up a little later than you usually did in Rome, and it all means that you will just be up next morning earlier than usual.

### Big Advantage

Evidently the big advantage of the coming "supersonics" is for the man who has business in Europe which may take only a day.

Since he will travel back and forth in two hours . . . he can, without undue fatigue, leave New York at noon . . . do a day's work anywhere in Europe . . . and be

back in his own bed the same night.

And the way the world is going . . . with the tariffs breaking down . . . Europe is rapidly becoming commercially one with the United States. Many business men will travel back and forth as readily as our friend the other day using a private plane to accomplish a day of business, in Boston, with minimum fatigue and time loss.

To the Catholic traveler as such . . . that is to the Churchman and pilgrim . . . all this increased speed in travel will not be quite as important as to the diplomat and businessman. Even the Churchman who goes to Rome on business looks forward to spending a few days in the Eternal City . . . whose mysteries are too numerous to explore in a year of visits.

For a Catholic traveler perhaps the most exciting aspect of the supersonic liners is the shortening of "distances in time."

Few persons thought of taking a trip to Europe in the days of sailing ships. But as the "time-distance"

has been cut, more and more persons go. With a two hour flight, Europe will be as close to New York tomorrow as Washington and Boston were yesterday.

### Lower Prices

And the prices will come down.

A supersonic jet will cost only half again as much as the current jet, yet it will be able to go to Europe and return in the same time that the current jet goes one way!

At the present time, on the group fare one can jet to Europe for less than \$150 (one way) at any time of the year. It is feasible that the regular fare will drop to this amount, apart from groups. And with the increasing standard of living, we will ALL be able to go!

So even if you haven't thought it was within your means to go to Europe before . . . *you may as well begin to think about it* because not only is your dream coming closer to possible realization every single day . . . but when you stop to think of it, *you can go now.*

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