

Pay to use the loo when you fly?

London – Passengers on Ryanair have learnt to live with paying £2.50 (\$5.60) for a cup of coffee.

Now they may have to get used to paying another pound to relieve themselves of it, The Times of London said yesterday.

Europe's largest budget carrier is considering charging passengers £1 a time to use the lavatories on its aircraft, its chief executive said on Friday, The Times reported.

"One thing we have looked at in the past and are looking at again is the possibility of maybe putting a coin slot on the toilet door so that people might actually have to spend a pound to 'spend a penny'

(use a public lavatory)," Mr Michael O'Leary said in a BBC television interview.

The shoot-from-the-hip honcho suggested that installing pay toilets would lower ticket costs and make flying, somehow, easier for all.

And he was confident that passengers would be armed with the requisite change.

"I don't think there is anybody in history that has got on board a Ryanair aircraft with less than a pound," he said.

While a Ryanair spokesman said there are no "immediate" plans to introduce paid-potty, analysts agreed that the man who pio-

neered charging passengers to check bags, to use a check-in desk and even to use credit or debit cards to make online bookings just might be serious about mile-high toilet extortion.

Passenger groups, predictably, reacted with incredulity.

Mr James Fremantle of the Air Transport Users Council said disabled passengers could be disadvantaged and that everyone would suffer on longer flights, which can last up to four hours.

"Asking people who may not have the right cash to cross their legs for that amount of time is a bit much," he told The Times.