

Cameraman - N. Fisher.

Sound - R. Sutton.

BASIC PETROL RATION CUT, DEMONSTRATION.

Various silent shots before hand of various slogans on cars.

Shot of Sir Miles Thomas (right) with Mr Stanley Davis and Mr. Dennis Brandish, President of the Union.

Various shots of cars passing through Coventry.

Girl hands out protest forms.

Signing protest forms.

Speech by Sir Miles Thomas, Vice-Chairman of Nuffield Organisation.

Shots on Coventry By-Pass showing mile long procession of cars, probably more than 1000.

Travelling shots through city.

*men w fight 4 be  
ty 4 5/7/52 7  
bought a car*

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BASIC PETROL RATION STORY:

SPEECH BY SIR MILES THOMAS.

Man from people clapping to S.M.T. on lorry.

"Thank you Mr. Brandish (?). Well ladies..."

LV S.M.T. on lorry.

to you here

"I want to make quite clear that I am not speaking/<sup>of the society of</sup> this morning as President ~~of the~~ Motor Manufacturers ~~Association~~ and Traders or as Vice Chairman of any Manufacturing Organisation. I am speaking as a private God fearing taxpayer, law abiding citizen (here, here, and applause) who wants freedom and to travel and to go about his lawful duties as he's a perfect right to do. And, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have got to take a stand against the abolition of the basic ration. I say that with very careful consideration because we in the Motor Industry are realists and at this moment of our country's very grave economic peril no single minded one amongst us would wish to recommend any scatter-brain proposal that would do anything to retard the nations recovery and in planning this demonstration in the heart of Coventry, every effort has been made to see that it does not interfere with the normal business <sup>activities</sup> ~~of the~~ of your city and that it does not conflict with the spirit of self-discipline which we all have to display in this critical time of our history. But, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Chairman, I honestly believe that the restoration of the Basic Petrol Ration would help the country and not hinder it. If I didn't believe that, I shouldn't be standing here this morning recommending such a thing."

SON S.M.T. talking.

"Now the overwhelming majority of motorcar users affected by the abolition of the Basic Petrol Ration are people who are small, of moderate means, who run a motorcar almost entirely for domestic or utilitarian purposes. To call these people pleasure motorists is frankly absurd and ~~unintelligent~~ nonsense. They have neither the time, nor the money, these days to afford in any unnecessary indulgence. They use a car to <sup>ease</sup> ~~take~~ the burden of an austerity existence which otherwise is going to be well nigh intolerable. I only wish that some members of the Government could see the thousands of letters of protest against this infliction which the motoring organisations have received.

~~Revised~~ AFFORD  
inevitable  
inevitably.

people who have to go many miles to take their children to school by car. people who shop by a car or be at the mercy of an erratic infrequent and entirely inadequate bus service, women in isolated homes, frequently old women, who can get no house in the house whatever who have to feed and look after large families. <sup>ESCU</sup> men who fought for their country for five years have saved up money to buy a car and now, after waiting two years for it, have taken delivery and have paid the Government £150 in purchase tax only to hold up their car <sup>(applause)</sup> and not be allowed to use it at all." (applause and 'hear, here')

LV S.M.T. speaking.

"How many ex-service men, who faced death to save us, and who came out of the forces to put their whole savings into little businesses like these now confronted with the stark prospect of bankruptcy. They risked death and now their living is signed away by a stroke of a pen in some government office. No Gentlemen. We have got to fight to get some at least of our Petrol Ration restored. We have got to fight on behalf of these people who fought for us and on behalf of these housewives and wage-earners who are constantly fighting these days, to scratch together the bare bones of an austere existence."

SV pan over heads of crowd listening.

"And let me conclude by reminding you of a few facts that support our case."

LV S.M.T. speaking.

"The saving of the seven and a half pounds which the Government estimates will result from the Abolition of the Basic Petrol Ration will be seriously offset by the increases in supplementary rations which will have to be made and, a further point, <sup>LV</sup> if the flood of the ch...application for supplementary ration are properly dealt with, dealt with fairly as they ought to be, they must <sup>inevitably</sup> ~~inevitably~~ add to the all ready inflated ranks of the Civil Service and already there is too much bureaucracy in this country. <sup>LV Grounds applying</sup> (applause and 'here, here') I respectfully suggest to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, that we have enough unproductive workers in the country as it is without adding to them. There is no doubt that the government in this decision was concerned about the extent of the Black

2  
56 ft.

17 ft.

25  
170  
179

3

50 ft.

4  
25th

.....Market in petrol. I agree with them, we don't want any long-distant  
Black Market jay-riding. But I submit to you that that kind of ~~KKKK~~ thing  
will become worse now, more than better, because the more you attempt to  
control and restrict the people's freedom unreasonably, the greater lengths  
they will go to to evade these restrictions. (Applause and 'here, here')  
when our airmen were being shot out of the ~~KKKK~~ sky, when the seamen were  
being torpedoed....."

G.V. Grouds  
applauding

LV S.M.T. speaking.

["no basic, more spivs. (laughter and applause.)"]

11th

LV S.M.T. speaking.

Owners and  
".....represents five million/users of motorcars and motorcycles. It  
recommends a 50% reduction of the basic Petrol allowance to show the  
Government a saving of 3½ million pounds, and it also recommends cuts in all  
other uses of imported petrol by an average of 20% which would show a  
saving of 5½ million pounds making nine million pounds in all and that's the  
figure required by the Government. We must do everything in our power to  
press for these revisions. The people of this country are entitled to a fair  
reconsideration of their case and by showing an open-minded attitude in this  
matter, the Government have nothing to lose but everything to gain."  
SV over heads of crowd as they applaud.

Gentlemen

6  
11th