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THE WORLD AS I SAW IT

For strength-through-austerity Britain, time was running short. Direction of labour and more all round cuts had come to an already economy-conscious nation. With background talk of an autumn budget, stolid Britons found some satisfaction in the fact that there was little left to cut or tax. Yet, as the axe fell, each affected group raised a protest. At Brands Hatch in Kent, 12,000 motor cyclists used almost their last gallon of petrol to protest against the withdrawal of the basic petrol ration.

The Government estimates the cut will mean a five million pounds saving. Motorists say the small saving involved does not justify a stoppage of basic. And, in Trafalgar Square, a former Riviera-King-turned-business man, Billal Bey Quillan, wages his own basic war. A Sunday afternoon crowd heard the self-styled opposition leader let off steam and demand a general election. But the honours as usual, will no doubt go to the unrepentant Mr. Shinwell. As Britain geared herself to overcome economic troubles it was negative consolation that Pathe's cameramen in other countries had an even grimmer story to tell. In Rome, eighty thousand people pack the Piazza Del Popolo for a left-wing demonstration against the Government. With food prices out of reach of the ordinary Italian, the people were restless. The biggest test of Gasperi's Christian Democratic Government in its fight with the Communists is over food.

Only Black Market speculators feed well in Italy. The rationing system does not prevent huge quantities of food going to the wrong people. Italy is topmost priority in the queue; of European countries to receive American aid under the Marshall plan. Meanwhile, Communist influence is gaining ground.

With economic distress as headline news in many countries, our cameramen reported great devastation in Japan. Swirling waters of the Tone River flood areas only a few miles from Tokyo. A typhoon, which swept two thirds of the Island, smashed the river's dykes. Rescue boats carry to safety refugees imprisoned by rising waters.