

I just wrote a response to Bruce Anderson, who had responded to my comments on his Dec 99 Tech write-up in Excellence about a reversed distributor. The expected behaviors he described were certainly intuitive. But despite his years of expertise, they were also wrong. I mean no disrespect here; his knowledge of the 911 is far greater than mine will ever be. But it proves once again that unquestioned acceptance of data from “experts” will get us all very naked emperors (like Clinton). If you read the piece, he indicates the timing will stay at idle setting. But the truth is that if the wires were reversed so the engine will idle, it will actually retard the engine timing about 25 Deg by 2500 RPM, which will demand added fuel and burn poorly, which would explain the hydrocarbon problem experienced in the original inquiry. I’ll be happy to regale you with the “why” if you e-mail me at jkholzer@sprintmil.com and request same.

But that whole episode got me to thinking about what an “expert” really is, and of course; brought me to recall a comical saying, that if you dissect the word, you find “spert”, which is a drip under pressure, and “ex” which means former and/or washed up. So an “expert” is a washed-up drip under high pressure.

I sometimes feel that way, especially when “between assignments” as I have been for the past few months (you KNEW there was something wrong when you saw me at so many events... ), as I am driven to accomplish, but have a hard time focusing on self-defined objectives without a customer. Call this my mea-culpa.

For years, the world believed that it was the center of the universe. Since few people had the skills to perform celestial calculations (and I doubt there are a higher percentage today), it was left to intuition to explain the movements in the heavens. Which pretty well looked like the sun and moon went around the earth inside a speckled globe; now let’s do something with the sheep... But what transpired should really make us all hold our wallets and question EVERYTHING. See, the Catholic Church was the repository of all the learned techies of that time, sort of a Religious Rand Corp. or something. And they studied the heavens and discovered that there were anomalies between their expected and empirical evidence. But what they discovered disputed the teachings of said church, so they “fudged” the data and led to centuries of ignorance and persecution. The first to publicly resist this, Copernicus, was placed under arrest and tortured. So much for turning the other cheek.

Fast forward to Albert Einstein, a brilliant thinker but socially irresponsible family man and Ferdinand Porsche the first, also a brilliant thinker and family man, but seemingly irresponsible societally. Both men achieved greatness in their respective fields, but both did so on the backs of innocents. This is not to diminish their real contributions, but to put a reality perspective on things which show that life is never so simple as a half-hour sitcom purports.

Much has recently been written about the injustices done by the USA over its history, and I find our meddling in the Balkans, Chechnya, China and elsewhere a bit conceited when considered against our own tarnish of slavery, concentration camps for Japanese Americans, Indians, Mississippi in the ‘60’s, Waco and the latest Congressional effort to overturn the electorate decision in Oregon to allow assisted suicide. The fact that the information is published at all is the only distinction I can conceive of at this moment separating we from them, but how long did it take for such honesty to arrive, and what does that imply must still be hidden?

What in hell does this have to do with Porsche or CNY you ask. Well, the former is still subject to a luxury tax, which has been removed from furs, jewelry, private jets and yachts, though few of those will ever save your life if recent evidence is to be acknowledged. The personal automobile, and the unfettered ability to use it safely, is still only a hair trigger away from governmental insistence on “black boxes” and ID control as a means to control your movements for their purposes. OBDII already does so to some degree, and it would be dink technology to make these things simply fail to operate on a grand scale if the “experts” decided they wanted us in mass transit for some periods or locales. The latter is like the rest of this vast country, populated by people who, in the main, want only to make a comfortable living and protect their families, and have no intention of diminishing the status of anyone else. But we get manipulated by the “experts” in the ivory towers, who send their storm troopers to do their dirty work, but who never seem to connect the idea that their presumptions fail in the face of contrary evidence, yet simply insist further on their cause. WHAT “war on drugs” while we have legal booze, tobacco taxes and poverty causing far more deaths per capita than any from cocaine, even including the crime, which is really a result PRECISELY of the effort to keep drugs illegal, just as it had been for Prohibition and the rise of Organized Crime in the ‘20s. How many traffic deaths have YOU heard were attributed to drugs? Yet a drug or alcohol infraction for a sub-21 can cost them their license, EVEN if they were not IN a car! And although I resent the power and wealth of the “experts” in the drug running game, I am not at all comfortable with the idea that police, WITHOUT TRIAL, can confiscate a personal automobile, EVEN one which is STOLEN, and trash it on the suspicion of drug offenses.

By now, if this isn’t already covered in cat doo, you are convinced that I am a neurotic like the guy in “Conspiracy Theory”. Not at all. Do you know that the NYS Thruway Authority seriously intended to use the time on/off from the toll cards and the EasyPass system to send speeding tickets, by reading the barcode embedded in your registration sticker? They only backed away when they realized they would be subject to cross examination and could not PROVE who was actually driving. Don’t believe you’ve heard the last of this concept. You might want to scrape the barcodes off. Every time I drive the 81 or 90 corridor more than a few miles, I am passed by a blue and yellow doing over 85 with the radar going, while in Pulaski the guy parks on the downhill entry ramps with his laser speed gun, which cost about the budget for a year for the local town, and they have motorists pulled to the side all over the place. It’s like shooting fish in a barrel. But to what end?

Hypocrisy is the root of injustice, and that is the basis for the demise of any society. But rather than embrace the idea that competent cars driven competently should be a noble objective, our legal system (you will PLEASE notice that I did not use the term JUSTICE, as it seems to have no bearing whatsoever) instead punishes those who seek to rise above the mundane, sort of like our tax laws, unless we have such wealth as to be able to BUY our way past; ie. with a plane, a congressman or a smart lawyer.

The simple truth is we are STILL having noone address the core issues of personal liberty and its corollary; personal responsibility. Instead, we watch meaningless entertainment and elect more morons who perpetuate the breed instead of fixing anything, while we incrementally give away our rights and responsibilities as citizens, and so are treated as SHEEP by the “experts”. Just remember; they are not always RIGHT!