

VW Confesses: It Was Just a Turing Test

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Volkswagen's Detection Deceiver had nothing whatever to do with its sales division pulling out all stops (except for pollutants) to bolster its diesel marketing campaign in the US. No, VW mechanical engineers were tempted by California's toughest in the world anti-pollution standards to see if they could beat the best. Thus the creation of the super-duper algorithm that they inserted in the device – one that would out-think any human detector of deceptive devices. Its failure also reveals the shallowness of supposedly hard science – What is so surprising about discovering that cars tested under lab conditions might perform much differently under actual conditions? It's the same dopey-ness one reads about all the time in the behavioral sciences. They gather a dozen students for a “scientific” study and locked them in a room for awhile to make some point about human behavior in real conditions. Crap reality produces crap results that amazingly tends to the result the researcher desired. Regarding VW's culprits – They will be made to memorize *Shadows of the Mind: A Search for the Missing Science of Consciousness* – by Roger Penrose, the brilliant British mathematical physicist. In this and other works Penrose has shown that the complexity of the human mind vastly exceeds the ability of an algorithmic Turing Machine to duplicate its capacity for knowledge. The human mind advanced from awareness to consciousness to mind. Clearly VW engineers have not even managed to get to awareness, and their consciousness certainly has failed the conscientiousness test.

Given that the entire governmental financial gathering and reporting of relevant sectors are geared toward making them seem better than they really are, it becomes especially significant when conditions are so obvious in a vital category that they cannot be obscured by lies. That is that the richer are getting richer and the rest are losing ground. We already know that household income is still more than 6.5% below where it was before the collapse, now the Census Bureau has reported that only those in the two highest income percentiles (90th and 95th) have had an increase of income during the current “recovery”. Nothing paints a clearer picture how and why that bogus phenomenon will fail. A financial stimulus that stimulates nothing but the financial sector, and/or makes the productive sector into quasi-financial enterprises because of the ease of profit, leaves the humble folks that produce and are expected to boost the economy struggling on the sidelines while watching those that do nothing get richer. It's like instituting mass masturbation in the expectation that it will lead to a higher reproduction rate.

San Francisco Fed member John Williams has been called upon to ease the frightening consequences of the Fed not raising rates. It made the world think: Gee, maybe something is wrong. Thus Williams announced that it was a close vote, they were just tiny smidgen away from saying yes, and they probably will do so by December. The end of the year usually is good for the markets – lots of low volumes and holidays, and alcohol to soothe the shock. By the end of the week Yellen was suggesting the year end as the rise date. The earlier dovish position did not generate the usual market splurge – so let's try the opposite. I produced mixed

results.

China's production PMI fell to 47, the seventh monthly decline in a row. Japan is back in deflation and recession. That's how two and three are doing, meanwhile number one had its second quarter GDP given another boost, this time up to 3.9% annualized. That makes the year so far at 2.3% – the same sluggish average the economy has been muddling through for decades. As noted many times, such strength in that area must manifest itself in others – particularly in growth in real income which coincides with growth with jobs worthy of the name. But most important as a test for truth is to show that it could maintain and then increase its current growth without artificial props. Previous cycles had something real between liquid/credit easing and collapse – it seems this one will come down with a flutter since it has created nothing substantial enough for a proper collapse.

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