

They Should Keep Their Fantasies At Home

A committee of MPs, the Environmental Audit Committee have declared that the government ought to **raise petrol taxes**. Their stated reason is that otherwise people will keep using petrol at a rate that is incompatible with satisfying the demands of the Kyoto Protocol. First, we can't help but note that the only way they can think of to persuade people to do what they think will save the world is through coercion in the form of taxation. They themselves were persuaded by reason and motivated by benevolence, but neither of those qualities exists outside Westminster, apparently. However, that is a rather commonplace fetish among MPs. Their use of the Kyoto Protocol as an excuse is a little more florid.

Even if everybody had implemented the Kyoto Protocol it would have cost **several trillion dollars** and delivered nothing. And the United States and (probably) Russia have not signed up to it. So the Kyoto Protocol is dead and good riddance.

So why does the Committee insist on the price rise? Because it conforms to a little fantasy in their minds. It goes like this. The common folk are stupid or wicked enough to think it's okay to use their cars when doing so will actually destroy the world. But wait! Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the Environmental Audit Committee! They've come to save us by raising fuel taxes and so reducing petrol usage by several percent – hooray! Quick, let's give them a ticker-tape parade through the heart of London! And if they fail, well, at least they fought the good fight against the evil oil companies, motorists, President Bush, and other agents of destruction.

If they do succeed, their fantasy is going to be damned expensive to indulge.

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florid?

i looked it up and still don't get it

-- Elliot Temple

<http://www.curi.us/>

by [Elliot Temple](#) on Thu, 08/26/2004 - 23:33 | [reply](#)

Florid

Think of it as 'stylish'.

Gil

by **Gil** on Fri, 08/27/2004 - 06:46 | [reply](#)

Adjective: Florid -

Elaborately or excessively ornamented

by a reader on Fri, 08/27/2004 - 08:25 | [reply](#)

florid

i don't see how stylish makes sense in context

-- Elliot Temple

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by **Elliot Temple** on Fri, 08/27/2004 - 15:26 | [reply](#)

re: florid

It was a rather lame joke based on **this** usage of the word.

Sorry for the confusion.

by **Editor** on Fri, 08/27/2004 - 16:59 | [reply](#)

Re: florid

Aw, darn. I thought it was **this** kind of florid (if there's a difference).

by **Kevin** on Fri, 08/27/2004 - 18:36 | [reply](#)