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VERIFIED

None/GA

FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATIONS***
VERIFIED

None/GA

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***** SMALL ENTITY *****

Foreign priority claimed 35 USC 119 conditions met	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	AS FILED	STATE OR COUNTRY	SHEETS DRWGS.	TOTAL CLAIMS	INDEP. CLAIMS	FILING FEE RECEIVED	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.
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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTIMIZING VEHICLE OPERATION

TITLE

U.S. DEPT. OF COMM./ PAT. & TM—PTO-436L (Rev.12)

PARTS OF APPLICATION FILED SEPARATELY		5355 Applications Examiner	
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ISSUE FEE <i>615</i>		CLAIMS ALLOWED	
Amount Due	Date Paid	Total Claims	Print Claim
<i>605</i>	<i>7-22-99</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>1</i>
Label Area		DRAWING	
		Sheets Drwg.	Figs. Drwg.
		<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>
		Print Fig.	<i>1</i>
		ISSUE BATCH NUMBER <i>507</i>	
PREPARED FOR ISSUE			
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ISSUE FEE IN FILE

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
FEE RECORD SHEET

370 TL 04/10/97 02410276
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PTO-1556
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Inventors: Harvey Slepian and Loran Sutton

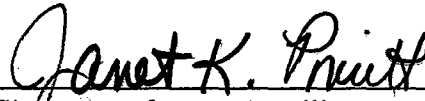
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTIMIZING VEHICLE OPERATION

Enclosed are the following papers:

- A check in the amount of \$557.00 for patent application filing fee.
- A check in the amount of \$40.00 for assignment recordation fee.
- This New Application Transmittal with Certificate of Express Mailing and attached fee sheet
- 26 Pages of specification
- 17 Pages of claims
- 1 Page(s) of Abstract
- 3 Sheets of informal drawing (Figs. 1 - 2B)
- Assignment
- Assignment Transmittal Letter
- Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status
- Declaration and Power of Attorney
- Postcard acknowledgment.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this New Application Transmittal and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date, March 10, 1997, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EM475197470US addressed to: Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



(Signature of person mailing paper)

Printed Name: Janet K. Pruitt

MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED		\$130.00	\$ 0.00
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TOTAL \$ 557.00

A check in the amount of \$ 557.00 for the filing fee is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-3105. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.

Date: March 10, 1997



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68439

The present invention generally relates to an apparatus for optimizing vehicle
5 operation and, more particularly, relates to a system which both notifies the driver of
recommended corrections in vehicle operation and, under certain conditions, automatically
initiates selected corrective action.

Description of Related Art

It has long been recognized that the improper operation of a vehicle may have many
10 adverse effects. For example, the fuel efficiency of a vehicle may vary dramatically based
upon how the vehicle is operated. More specifically, operating a vehicle at excessive speed,
excessive RPM and/or excessive manifold pressure will result in both reduced fuel economy
and increased operating costs. The aforementioned increased operating costs can be quite
15 considerable, particularly for an owner or operator of a fleet of vehicles. To correct these
types of improper vehicle operations are often surprisingly simple. For example, upshifting
the drive gear will typically eliminate an excessive RPM condition. However, even when
the solution is quite simple, oftentimes, the driver will be unaware of the need to take
corrective action.

A variety of patents have disclosed systems, commonly referred to as "shift
20 prompters", which monitor the operation of a vehicle and advises the operator of the vehicle
when to take certain actions. Numerous ones of these devices include sensors which measure

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