

THREE THINGS: KILLING OIL, TOO MONEY, KASPERSKY'S WORLD

Too much going on here today but the existing threads are getting too deep and a couple are drifting off-topic. Here's three quick things to chew on and an open thread.

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The marketplace will bring death to oil long before the government. (Bloomberg). But will governments – US and oil-producing countries alike – get in the way of alternative energy in spite of the market demanding more alternatives to fossil fuels? With this trend away from combustion engines pressing on them, fossil fuel producers are shifting toward increased LNG for use in electricity production; this only shifts CO2 creation from vehicles to power plants. Will the market put an end to that, too?

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There's too much money out there if Delta can order multiple planes configured for all-first class service. I just spoke with a friend earlier today about round-trip fares from a major Midwest airport to major cities in Europe; they were quite high even with a departure date more than a month out, and higher than they had seen in a while. Fuel prices haven't increased that much over the last year; low oil prices are threatening pipelines as financing construction costs more than the return on oil. Somewhere between slack fuel prices, firm fares and demand, Delta's making enough money to build these let-them-eat-cake planes.

One could argue that if buyers have the money they can have whatever they want – except that taxpayers finance the infrastructure including essential safety regulatory system which will now protect the few and not the many while increasing congestion. Too money – somebody

needs to pay more taxes to support the infrastructure they're using.

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Kaspersky Labs is releasing around the globe a free version of their antivirus software (Reuters). It won't replace the paid version of their AV software, providing only very basic protection. I'm not using it, though, for two reasons: if it's like Kaspersky's existing free tool, it will send messages back to the parent company about infections it finds – and possibly more. Congress and the U.S. intelligence community may have concerns about Kaspersky Lab's vulnerability to the Russian government; I'm more concerned about Kaspersky Lab having been breached at least once in 2015, compromising data in their systems. Your mileage may vary; use under advisement.

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That's it for now. This is an open thread.
Behave.

P.S. The fight against attacks on the health care system isn't over. Call your senator at (202) 224-3121. Other tools for your use in this post.