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Description

This invention relates generally to fuel delivery systems for combustion ignition engines and more particularly to a rotation sensitive pressure regulator for limiting exhaust smoke and/or the rise in engine torque.

When a compression ignition engine is operating at full speed and load is applied to the engine, the engine speed decreases until a lug condition results. As the engine speed decreases, the delivery of the fuel pump increases and a greater volume of fuel is delivered to the combustion chambers. The increased fuel delivery results in an inherent increase in the output torque of the engine. In some engines, particularly turbocharged engines, the natural torque rise under such conditions is also detrimental to effective control of exhaust emissions inasmuch as excessive smoke is produced from the engine.

It has been found that excessive smoke production and damaging increases in torque can be prevented by decreasing the amount of fuel delivered to the combustion chambers as the engine speed decreases from its rated to its peak torque speed.

The task of decreasing the amount of fuel delivered as engine speed decreases typically cannot be performed by a conventional governor alone. A governor increases the delivery of fuel as engine speed decreases in order to maintain engine speed constant. This is the primary function of a governor. On some engines a fuel air ratio controller and a speed sensitive regulator are used in combination with a governor to override the governor. Such fuel air ratio controllers are disclosed in US—A—3,313,283, US—A—4,068,642 and US—A—4,149,507. One device for regulating a fuel air ratio controller is disclosed in US—A—4,136,658. Other work in this field of technology includes US—A—3,695,245, US—A—3,916,862, US—A—3,532,082 and US—A—3,911,855.

Previous devices for controlling torque rise have not always provided the desired service life. These prior controllers, for example, employ springs that can change in elasticity and/or diaphragms that can rupture due to wear.

Further, there are only a limited number of engines that actually require such a controller. Thus, there is a continuing search for a device which will satisfy these tasks and can be easily installed as an accessory to a conventional governor.

FR—A—2016482 describes a rotation sensitive pressure regulator comprising an inlet (30, 31); an outlet (39, 40); a vent conduit (35); valve means having a reciprocable spool valve (5) movable between a first (31—39), a second (37 blocking 39) and a third (39—35) position; fly weight means (9) for moving the spool valve (5) in a first direction and towards its first position in response to increased rotation of

speed of the flyweight means, and means (spring 15) for urging the spool valve in a second direction opposite to the first direction and towards its third position in response to the decreased rotational speed of the flyweight means. Fluid stabilising means (chamber 19) are provided which are responsive to the fluid pressure in the outlet (39, 40) (via elements 42, 101, 91, 24) and which are acting against each movement of the spool valve. US—A—3049867 describes stabilizing spool valve movement by use of fluid pressure in its outlet.

According to the present invention a rotation sensitive pressure regulator comprising an inlet and outlet; a vent conduit; valve means having a reciprocable spool valve for modulating fluid pressure in the outlet in response to the position of the spool valve, the reciprocable spool valve being sequentially movable between a first position communicating fluid pressure from the inlet to the outlet, a second position blocking the outlet from the inlet and a third position communicating the outlet with the vent conduit; flyweight means for moving the spool valve in a first direction and towards its first position in response to increased rotational speed of the flyweight means is characterized by means for urging the spool valve in a second direction opposite to the first direction and towards its third position in response to fluid pressure in the outlet and decreased rotational speed of the flyweight means.

Reliable and repeatable performance is attained by utilizing a nondeformable actuator member which eliminates the necessity for a diaphragm and an actuating spring. The stability of the regulator is provided through the use of a spring that can adjust the static force on the spool valve.

The problem of providing an apparatus that will utilize existing equipment is met by providing a regulator that requires just an engine speed input shaft and a source of fluid pressure and can be conveniently attached at many locations on the engine.

One example of a regulator according to the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic side elevational view in cross section of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a graphic illustration of the torque curves, the generation of smoke and the fuel rack position of an engine that is operated both with and without the embodiment of Fig. 1.

Fig. 1 illustrates a rotation sensitive pressure regulator 7 that is used on a compression ignition engine (not shown). The regulator includes a speed input shaft 8 that is driven by the engine at a speed proportional to the crankshaft speed. The input shaft is mounted for rotation within two duplex bearings 9 that are rigidly mounted in a base 10. The base attaches the regulator 7 to the engine (not shown) and seals the bottom of the regulator 7 from

contamination by dirt and oil. The regulator 7 further includes a body or housing 11 which houses the apparatus. The base 10 and the body 11 are sealed by an O-ring 12.

The speed input shaft 8 rotates a fly-weight assembly 13 that includes a disc shaped carrier 14 on which is mounted a plurality of clevises 15. On each clevice is a pin 16 that acts as a pivot for a fly-weight 17. The fly-weights are located between the clevises and pivot about the pins 16. When the shaft 8 rotates, the carrier 14 rotates at the same speed and the fly-weights pivot outwardly away from the axis of rotation due to centrifugal force.

Each fly-weight 17 has a toe 18 that engages the outer race or ring of a bearing 20. The inner race of the bearing is rigidly attached to a non-deformable actuator member 19 that is an integral part of valve means 21 for regulating the outlet fluid pressure of the regulator 7. More precisely, the member 19 is a stem located on the lower end of a spool valve 21a and serves as a rigid coupling directly engaged by both the fly-weight assembly 13 and the spool valve for moving the spool valve in an upward direction in response to rotation of the fly-weight assembly. The bearing 20 permits the fly-weights to rotate relative to the spool valve during operation. The spool valve has upper and lower relieved portions 22, 23, respectively, that form a control land 24. Throughout the range of motion of the spool valve 21a, the upper relieved portion 22 communicates with a vent conduit 28 in the body 11 and the lower relieved portion 23 communicates with a supply conduit or inlet 26. The supply conduit is connected to a source of fluid pressure (not shown). When used on a supercharged or turbocharged engine, the supply conduit 26 is connected to the intake manifold so that the regulator is supplied with pressurized air corresponding to the manifold pressure.

As illustrated in Fig. 1, the control land 24 covers a controlled air conduit or outlet 29. During operation, regulated air at a predetermined pressure is provided through this conduit 29 to a fuel air ratio controller 31 as described below. The spool valve 21a slides up and down within a bushing 33 that is rigidly mounted within the body 11 of the regulator 7. The conduits 26, 28 and 29 communicate with the spool valve through the bushing. The clearance between the spool valve and the bushing is approximately 3.30×10^{-6} m (130 millionths of an inch) so that air may be controlled by this spool valve. The spool valve 21a and the bushing 33 can be fabricated from either stainless steel or porcelain. Porcelain is preferred if high temperature moisture laden air is to be encountered from the intake manifold.

Referring now to the upper portion of Fig. 1, the regulator 7 is provided with means 32 for urging the spool valve 21a in a downward direction in opposition to the fly-weight assembly 13 in response to fluid pressure in the

outlet 29.

The urging means includes a cavity or chamber 34 formed around the top of the bushing 33 by a cover 35 and a gasket 36 secured to the regulator housing 11 by a plurality of bolts 37 and which seal the fluid pressure within the regulator. The cavity is connected to the controlled air conduit 29 by a passage 38.

The urging means 32 further includes a compression spring 40 and which urges the spool valve 21a in a downward direction and places a static force on the spool valve that opposes the upward force generated by the rotation of the fly-weights 17. An adjusting screw 39 is threadably received in the cover 35 to adjust the compression of the spring which provides a way to vary the effect of the fly-weights and to move the operating curve of the regulator as described below in connection with Fig. 2. When the adjustment screw 39 is properly positioned, the screw is locked in place with a jam nut 42 that engages the adjustment screw 39 and the cover 35. A rubber seal washer 43 is used to prevent the escape of fluid pressure from around the screw.

The regulator 7 controls the pressure in the controlled air conduit 29 by moving the control land 24 on the spool valve 21a with respect to the conduit 29. The position of the control land is controlled by a plurality of forces. The downward force on the spool valve includes a force due to the fluid pressure in the cavity 34 under the cover 35. The pressure in this cavity 34 is equal to the pressure in the controlled air conduit 29 and is communicated to the cavity via the passage 38. In addition, there is a downward force acting on the spool valve due to the static force of the spring 40. The upward force on the spool valve includes the force due to the rotation of the fly-weights 17. This force is equal to a constant K times the square of the speed of the shaft 8 so that the upward force is proportional to the square of the engine speed. The constant K includes the number and mass of the fly-weights, the distance between the center of mass of the fly-weights and the pin 16 and the distance between the toe 18 and the pin 16. The cavity around the fly-weights is vented to the atmosphere so that no fluid pressure acts on the bottom of the spool valve.

The pressure in the controlled air conduit 29 is directed to the fuel air ratio controller 31. The controller includes an upper chamber 45 and a lower chamber 46 separated by a diaphragm 47. The diaphragm is spring loaded with a spring 48 that eliminates preloading the diaphragm. The pressure from the regulator 7 is directed into the upper chamber 45 and the lower chamber 46 is constantly at atmospheric pressure. The bottom of the diaphragm 47 is connected to a bolt 49 that engages a fuel rack collar 50 that positions the fuel rack 51. The purpose of the fuel air ratio controller 31 is to resist the movement of the fuel rack 51 during

acceleration and to coordinate movement of the fuel rack 51 with the amount of air available in the intake manifold (not shown). The construction and operation of the fuel air ratio controller is described in the US—A—3.313.283; US—A—4.068.642 and US—A—4.149.507.

Referring to Fig. 1, the regulator 7 controls the fluid pressure in the controlled air conduit 29 as a function of the rotation of the speed input shaft 8. The speed input shaft is operatively connected to the crankshaft of an engine (not shown) so that the shaft 8 turns at an integral multiple of the speed of the engine. The regulator is connected to a source of fluid pressure such as the intake manifold of a turbo-charged engine via the supply conduit 26. The regulator is also vented to the atmosphere through the vent conduit 28.

In operation, the engine turns the speed input shaft 8 at a multiple of the crankshaft speed. If the input shaft 8 increases in speed, the fly-weights 17 tend to move outward away from the axis of rotation and thus the toes 18 tend to move the spool valve 21a in an upward direction via the actuator member 19. This upward motion tends to connect the fluid pressure in conduit 26 to the controlled air conduit 29 via the lower relieved portion 23 of the spool valve. When the pressure in conduit 29 increases, the pressure in the cavity 34 under the cover 35 increases via passage 38 and tends to force the top of the spool valve in a downward direction against the upward force of the fly-weights. The pressure in conduit 29 is increased until the control land 24 again covers the controlled air conduit 29. A balanced condition results with a predetermined pressure in conduit 29 and with the fly-weight force exactly opposing the spring and output pressure forces.

When the speed of the shaft 8 decreases, the fly-weights 17 tend to move toward the axis of rotation which causes the spool valve 21a to move in a downward direction. In addition, the elevated pressure in conduit 29 also acts through passage 38 to force the spool valve in a downward direction. When the spool valve moves downward, the control land 24 vents conduit 29 to the atmosphere via the upper relieved portion 22 of the spool valve and the vent conduit 28. This venting lowers the force on the top of the spool valve and tends to permit the spool valve to move upward. The pressure in conduit 29 is thereby decreased until the control land 24 again covers the controlled air conduit and the opposing forces are balanced.

Th regulator 7 through the predetermined pressure in conduit 29 controls the pressure in the upper chamber 45 of the fuel air ratio controller 31. This controller, in turn, controls the position of the fuel rack 51 which regulates the amount of fuel delivery per pump stroke to the cylinders of the engine (not shown). When the pressure in the upper chamber 45 of the controller 31 increases, the bolt 49 permits a larger

amount of fuel delivery to the cylinders. The opposite occurs when the pressure in the upper chamber is decreased.

When the fuel rack 51 is positioned for maximum horsepower at rated speed and the engine is then placed under load so that it begins to lug, the fuel pump (not shown) automatically increases the delivery of fuel to the cylinder. This increase in fuel delivery is a function of the change of efficiency of the fuel pump as the engine speed decreases. As described in detail above, when the engine lugs down, the speed input shaft 8 turns at a slower speed. This slower speed decreases the fly-weight force and along with the pressure in the passage 38 causes the spool valve to move downward. This vents a portion of the air pressure in the upper chamber 45 out to the atmosphere through the vent conduit 28. The diaphragm 47 in turn moves the rack 51 to reduce the amount of fuel delivery.

Fig. 2 illustrates the performance curves of an engine that utilizes a rotation sensitive pressure regulator 7 according to the present invention. Graph 56 is the curve of torque (brake mean effective pressure in kPa or psi) vs. engine speed (rpm). Graph 57 illustrates the production of smoke vs. engine speed, and graph 58 illustrates the position of the fuel rack with respect to engine speed. In graph 58 zero indicates the center of the travel of the rack and the graph has an abscissa of plus or minus (.254 cm) (0.10 inches) either side of center.

Referring to graph 58, Fig. 2, Point A indicates the high idle position where at 2200 rpm there is no load on the engine. Point B is the balance point where maximum horsepower is developed at the rated speed of the engine.

If the engine is started at high idle with no load (Point A) and then is increasingly loaded, the fuel rack moves from Point A to Point B as the engine speed decreases. Once Point B is reached, the rack position is fixed against a mechanical stop (not shown) and the engine begins to lug. The horizontal portion of graph 58 is termed "the fixed rack lug curve." As the engine is loaded down from 2000 rpm (Point B) the torque developed on the engine rises as indicated by graph 56. In addition, the production of smoke increases as illustrated by graph 57.

The broken line portions of the performance curves below 1400 rpm illustrate the operation of the engine if the speed sensitive pressure regulator 7 and the fuel air ratio controller 31 are not used. As shown below 1400 rpm the torque developed by the engine peaks and then falls off (graph 56), the production of smoke increases dramatically (graph 57), and the position of the fuel rack remains fixed (graph 58).

On an engine equipped with a rotation sensitive pressure regulator 7 and a fuel air ratio controller 31 as described above, the production of smoke and the elevation of torque is

substantially changed when the engine speed decreases below 1400 rpm. On graph 58 Point C illustrates where the regulator begins to take effect. At that point the fuel rack is moved in a negative direction and the amount of fuel delivered to the cylinders per stroke is decreased. In graph 56 it can be seen that at 1400 rpm and below the torque developed by the engine is dramatically decreased. In addition, the production of smoke is likewise limited at engine speeds below 1400 rpm.

Referring to Fig. 2, the effect of the pressure regulator 7 is indicated by the upward sloping linear curve 65. The slope of this curve is fixed by the number, mass, and geometry of the flyweights and the area of the top of the spool valve 21a. The position of this curve 65 crosses along the horizontal axis is controlled by the spring 40. That is to say, the spring controls the speed at which Point C occurs which is the point at which the regulated fuel rack curve 65 crosses the fixed rack lug curve. For example, if the compression on the spring is increased, starred curves 56', 57' and 65' are produced. Thus, it can be seen that by adjusting the compression of the spring, the maximum elevation in torque and the net production of smoke can be controlled by the apparatus described herein.

In summary, the present invention controls the generation of smoke and limits the rise in engine torque by pulling the fuel rack back when the engine lugs. Stability of the system and reliable performance are obtained by utilizing the spool valve 21a, the actuator member (19) and the spring 40.

Claims

1. A rotation sensitive pressure regulator (7) comprising an inlet (26); an outlet (29); a vent conduit (28); valve means (21) having a reciprocable spool valve (21a) for modulating fluid pressure in the outlet (29) in response to the position of the spool valve, the reciprocable spool valve (21a) being sequentially movable between a first position communicating fluid pressure from the inlet (26) to the outlet (29), a second position blocking the outlet (29) from the inlet (26), and a third position communicating the outlet (29) with the vent conduit (28); flyweight means (13) for moving the spool valve (21a) in a first direction and towards its first position in response to increased rotational speed of the flyweight means (13); characterized by means (32) for urging the spool valve (21a) in a second direction opposite to the first direction and towards its third position in response to fluid pressure in the outlet (29) and decreased rotational speed of the flyweight means (13).

2. A rotation sensitive pressure regulator (7) according to claim 1, wherein the urging means (32) includes a pressure chamber (34) for applying fluid pressure to an end of the spool valve (21a) and passage means (38) for com-

municating fluid pressure from the outlet (29) to the pressure chamber (34).

3. A rotation sensitive pressure regulator (7) according to claim 2, wherein the urging means (32) further includes a compression spring (40) for biasing the spool valve (21a) in the second direction and wherein the force applied to the spool valve (21a) by the flyweight means (13) opposes the combined forces of the spring (40) and the predetermined pressure in the pressure chamber (34).

4. A rotation sensitive pressure regulator (7) according to claim 3, including means (39) for selectively adjusting the compression of the spring (40) and establishing a balanced position of the spool valve (21a).

5. A rotation sensitive pressure regulator (7) according to claim 1, wherein said spool valve (21a) includes a control land (24) for modulating the fluid pressure in the outlet (29) in response to the position of the spool valve (21a).

6. A rotation sensitive pressure regulator (7) according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the spool valve (21a) is actuated by the flyweight assembly (13) via a nondeformable stem (19) on the spool valve (21).

Revendications

1. Régulateur de pression sensible à la rotation (7), comprenant une conduite d'arrivée (26) et une conduite de sortie (29); une lumière de purge (28); un moyen de soupape (21) comprenant un tiroir de distribution (21a) à mouvement alternatif pour moduler la pression d'un fluide dans la conduite de sortie (29) en réponse à la position du tiroir de distribution, le tiroir de distribution (21a) à mouvement alternatif étant apte à être déplacé séquentiellement entre une première position mettant en communication la pression du fluide entre la conduite d'arrivée (26) et la conduite de sortie (29), une seconde position bloquant la conduite de sortie (29) par rapport à la conduite d'arrivée (26), et une troisième position mettant en communication la conduite de sortie (29) avec la lumière de purge (28); un moyen à force centrifuge (13) pour déplacer le tiroir de distribution (21a) dans une première direction et vers sa première position en réponse à une augmentation de la vitesse de rotation du moyen à force centrifuge (13); caractérisé par un moyen (32) pour solliciter le tiroir de distribution (21a) dans une seconde direction opposée à la première direction et vers sa troisième position en réponse à la pression du fluide dans la conduite de sortie (29) et à une diminution de la vitesse de rotation du moyen à force centrifuge (13).

2. Régulateur de pression sensible à la rotation (7) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le moyen de déplacement (32) comprend une chambre de pression (34) pour appliquer une pression d'un fluide à une extrémité du tiroir de distribution (21a) et un moyen de passage (38)

pour mettre en communication la pression du fluide provenant de la conduite de sortie (29) avec celle de la chambre de pression (34).

3. Régulateur de pression sensible à la rotation (7) selon la revendication 2, dans lequel le moyen de déplacement (32) comprend en outre un ressort de compression (40) pour repousser le tiroir de distribution (21a) dans la seconde direction et dans lequel la force exercée sur le tiroir de distribution (21a) par le moyen à force centrifuge (13) s'oppose aux forces combinées du ressort (40) et à la pression pré-déterminée dans la chambre de pression (34).

4. Régulateur de pression sensible à la rotation (7) selon la revendication 3, comprenant un moyen (39) pour régler sélectivement la compression du ressort (40) et pour établir une position d'équilibre du tiroir de distribution (21a).

5. Régulateur de pression sensible à la rotation (7) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit tiroir de distribution (21a) comporte une plage de commande (24) pour moduler la pression du fluide dans la conduite de sortie (29) en réponse à la position du tiroir de distribution (21a).

6. Régulateur de pression sensible à la rotation (7) selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, dans lequel le tiroir de distribution (21a) est actionné par l'ensemble à force centrifuge (13) par l'intermédiaire d'une tige indéformable (19) sur le tiroir de distribution (21).

Patentansprüche

1. Rotationsempfindlicher Druckregler (7) mit einem Einlaß (26), einem Auslaß (29), einer Ablaßleitung (28), Ventilmitteln (21) mit einem hin- und herbewegbaren Kolbenventil (21a) zur Modulation des Strömungsmitteldrucks im Auslaß (29) infolge der Position des Kolbenventils, wobei das hin- und herbewegbare Kolbenventil (21a) sequentiell zwischen einer ersten, zweiten und dritten Position bewegbar ist, wobei in der ersten Position Strömungs-

mitteldruck vom Einlaß (26) zum Auslaß (29) geleitet wird, während in der zweiten Position der Auslaß (29) gegenüber dem Einlaß (26) gesperrt ist, wobei schließlich in der dritten Position der Auslaß (29) mit der Ablaßleitung (28) in Verbindung steht, und schließlich mit Fliehkraftmitteln (13) zur Bewegung des Kolbenventils (21a) in einer ersten Richtung und zu seiner ersten Position hin infolge einer erhöhten Drehzahl der Fliehkraftmittel (13), gekennzeichnet durch Mittel (32), um das Kolbenventil (21a) in eine zweite Richtung entgegengesetzt zur ersten Richtung und in seine dritte Position hin zu drücken, und zwar infolge von Strömungsmitteldruck im Auslaß (29) und verminderter Drehzahl der Fliehkraftmittel (13).

2. Rotationsempfindlicher Druckregler (7) nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Drückmittel (32) eine Druckkammer (34) aufweisen, um Strömungsmitteldruck an ein Ende des Kolbenventils (21a) anzulegen und Durchlaßmittel (38) zur Verbindung von Strömungsmitteldruck vom Auslaß (29) zur Druckkammer (34).

3. Rotationsempfindlicher Druckregler (7) nach Anspruch 2, wobei die Drückmittel (32) ferner eine Druckfeder (40) aufweisen, um das Kolbenventil (21a) in der zweiten Richtung vorzuspannen, und wobei die an das Kolbenventil (21a) durch die Fliehkraftmittel (13) angelegte Kraft den kombinierten Kräften von Feder (40) und dem vorbestimmten Druck in der Druckkammer (34) entgegenwirken.

4. Rotationsempfindlicher Druckregler (7) nach Anspruch 3 mit Mitteln (39), um selektiv die Kompression der Feder (40) einzustellen und eine Gleichgewichtsposition des Ventilkolbens (21a) vorzusehen.

5. Rotationsempfindlicher Druckregler (7) nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Kolbenventil (21a) einen Steuersteg (24) aufweist zur Modulation des Strömungsmitteldrucks im Auslaß (29) infolge der Position des Kolbenventils (21a).

6. Rotationsempfindlicher Druckregler (7) nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, wobei das Kolbenventil (21a) durch die Fliehkraftanordnung (13) betätigt wird, und zwar über einen nicht deformierbaren Schaft (19) am Kolbenventil (21).

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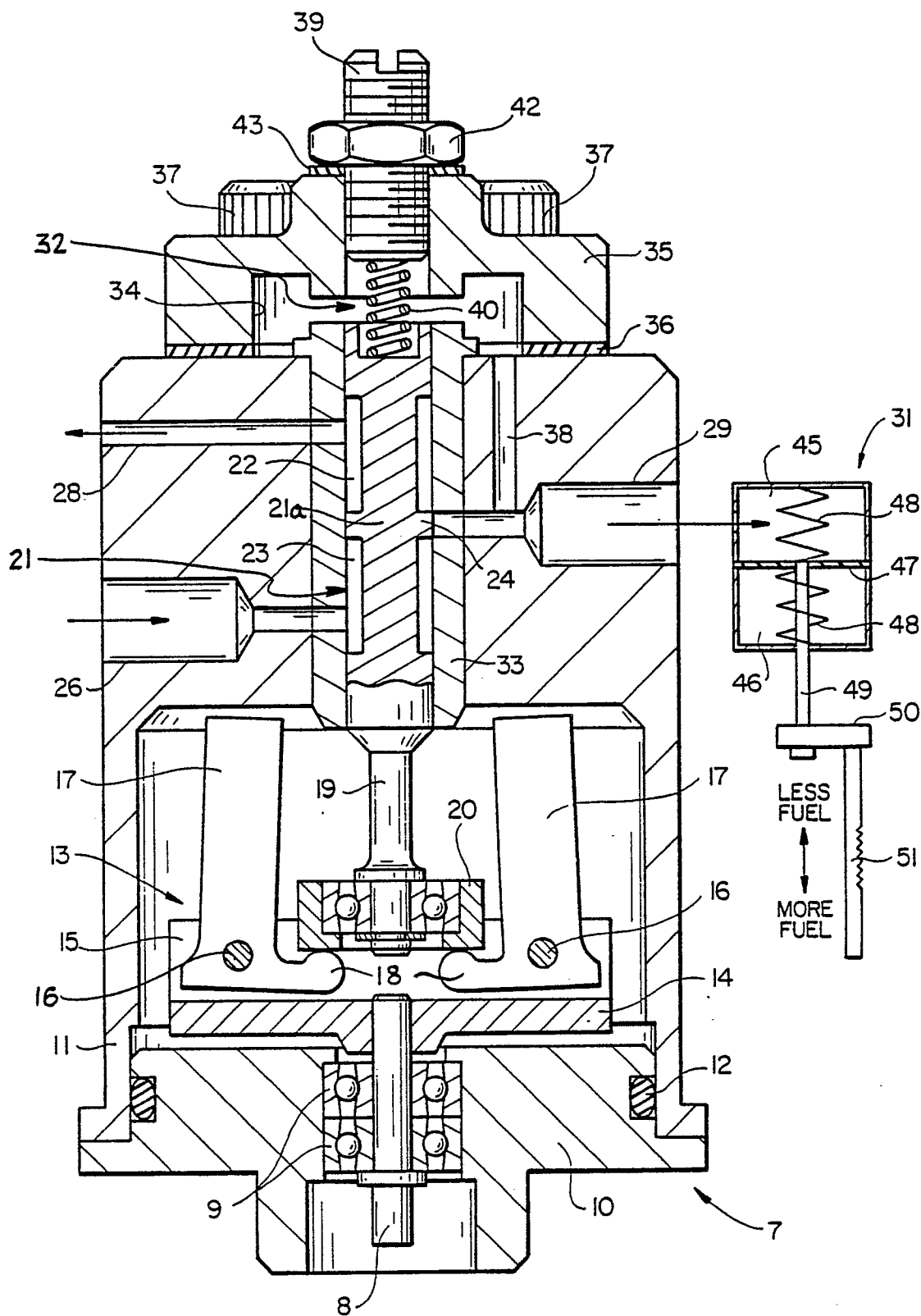
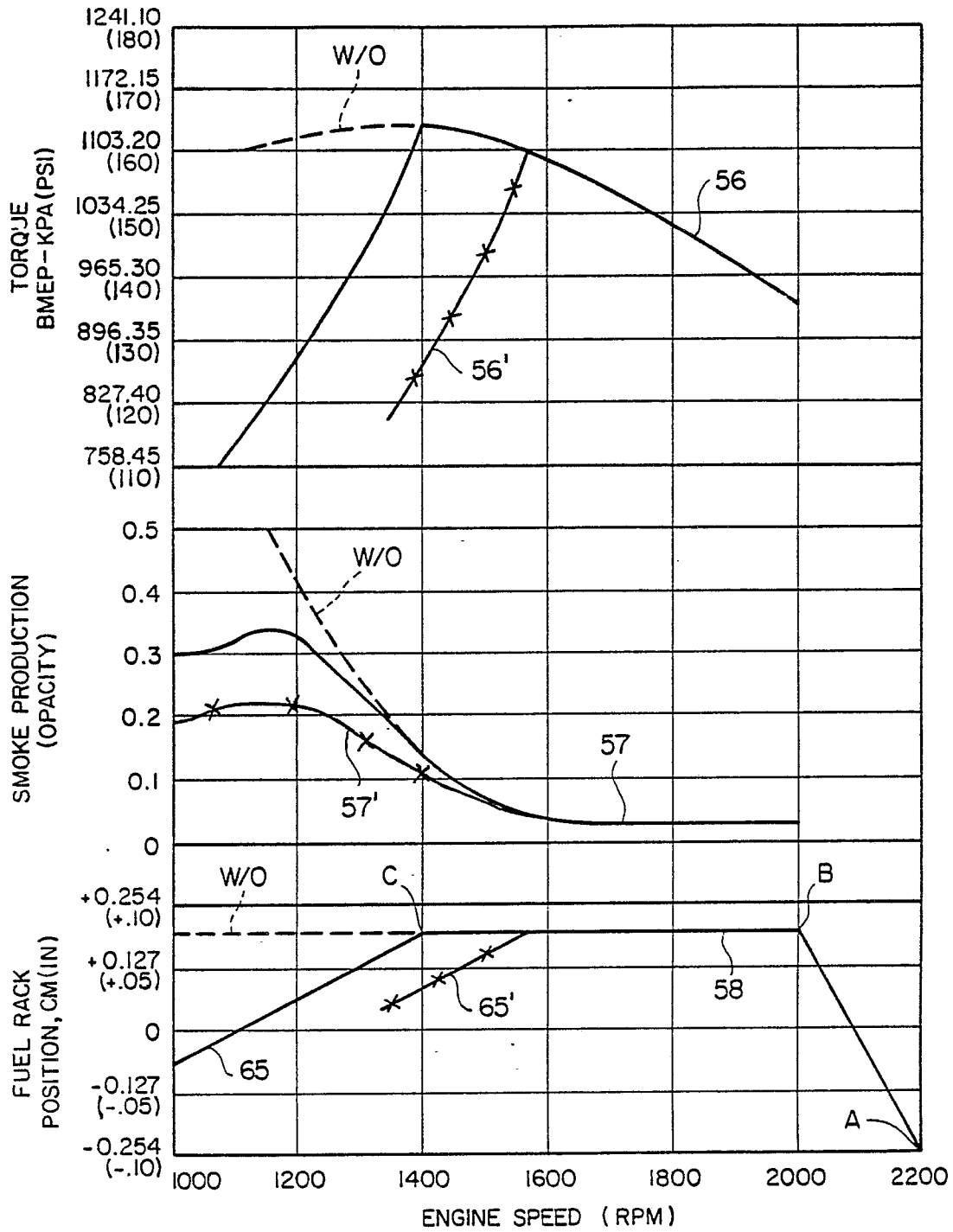


FIG 1

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FIG_2