

From a pre-publication press release on Blaxill and Eckardt's forthcoming book *The Invisible Edge: Taking Your Strategy to the Next Level Using Intellectual Property* (Portfolio, March 2009)-

"Back in the 1960s and 1970s, in the name of "competition," regulators at the FTC forced some of America's leading companies to open their patent portfolios to the world. According to Blaxill and Eckardt: "The result was a flood of goods from foreign companies - made with American know-how that was obtained essentially for free.

-- The emblematic case was the 1975 antitrust settlement with Xerox: The FTC consent decree forced Xerox to give away decades of innovations for free."

Based on the above I would prefer the FTC steer clear of patents and stick with other issues where their attention is sorely needed and more appropriately directed like breaking up huge corporations that exhibit antitrust behavior -who use their sheer size and power to control and manipulate markets, or how about better regulate banks and investment banks so we can avoid a repeat of the banking collapse that has already cost taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars and forced a monumental debt on us and posterity.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Wren