

# The Passy Press<sup>®</sup>

## Letters to the Editor

From: Charles Crawford<ccrawford@undisclosed.com>  
To: Nick Gardiner <enpg@thepassypress.com>  
Sent: 12 November 2018 at 22:22:06 CET  
Subject: Cyber Essay, November 2018

Dear Sir,

My comments follow.

1. Protection of intellectual property and protection against cyber attacks are separate problems and should not be discussed together.
2. Intellectual Property. IP rights are notoriously hard to enforce. I recall that Sousa's royalties for Washington Post March were about \$150 and that Dickens' U.S. royalties totaled about the same. I suspect that BF forwent a patent on lightening rods in part because he realized that meaningful enforcement would be impossible. That's not to say that the U.S. government shouldn't use its muscle to prevent the most egregious IP violations by the Chinese government and Chinese companies and individuals.
3. Cyber Attack. IP is essentially about money. A cyber attack is about national survival in the short term. A cyber attack could close down air travel and the financial system and much more, including the electric grid. At present, hackers with limited resources are able to extract huge bribes from companies in return for unlocking their records. Think what China could do with its resources. If the government isn't treating this threat as it does a nuclear attack, it ought to.

Sincerely,

Charles Crawford

*Charles T. Crawford, now retired, was a CPA and a member of the Kansas, Missouri and New York bars. He was partner in charge of the tax practice of the Kansas City law firm Shook, Hardy and Bacon; and later, in a 34-year career with Price Waterhouse in New York, was director of its Center of International Taxation, Firm Secretary, and editor of its International Tax Review. He was a graduate of the University of Kansas and its law School.*