

on the other hand, the struggle for supremacy was incorporated within the system, in the very checks and balances which were devised to ensure that no part of the government could grow too powerful and that sovereignty would forever abide with the people. The President, so it seemed for a long time, had been guaranteed political survival for at least four years, but -- as it now seems -- had not been guaranteed the ability to govern. Nevertheless, the most powerful institution in the U.S. government for most of this century has been the Presidency. With the resignation of President Nixon, however, the apparent guarantee of survival for a full term in office was shattered; presidential accountability was dramatically reaffirmed; and Congress in effect finally achieved what the legislature had long since enjoyed vis-à-vis the executive under the parliamentary system.

It is too soon to tell what will be the long-term effects of these historic developments on the U.S. system of government. That system, however, is complex and delicate, and every piece must interact with the others to make it work. Seen from Canada, in the foreign policy context, it has not fully recovered from recent shocks and is not working well at present. As a representative of the parliamentary system I can