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Your editorial “Keeping Secrets” (Oct 7) is politically and constitutionally correct. It is argued well that throwing out a Government through extra constitutional means could only create unrest in smaller provinces and work against the cause of democracy and good governance. This sensible editorial judgment may be an understatement of the consequences of another deviation from the basic law of the land. Another martial law will not only create unrest but will go beyond and dismember whatever is left of the country. This is the cardinal lesson which we are supposed to have learnt from the original sins of Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan, Zia ul Haq and Pervez Musharraf. No more mockery of the constitution will be acceptable under any pretext whatsoever—enough is enough!

However the front page of the same issue has a report quoting the prime minister as saying that the Kerry-Lugar bill was proof of success of a democratic government. In contrast to this, there is a report which says that the army has told the US army that it thinks that the bill is an ‘insult’. This dichotomy creates a potentially dangerous situation for the newly restored democratic order in the country and the reported gap in perception obviously means that the civilian and military leaderships are not on the same wavelength.

If a government allegedly loses popularity this does not give license to the establishment to step in and kick democracy out and the country back to square one. In my opinion the Kerry-Lugar bill in no way insults the people of Pakistan – simply because its provisions coincide with our national interest. Do we want to engage in nuclear proliferation? Are we committed to fighting terrorism? Should we be helping terrorists/extremists? I appeal to the PPP-led government and the opposition to expedite the process of constitutional reforms. We all have a shared responsibility to face domestic and external challenges.