

## PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM

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Sir, — The people of the country have elected Mrs. Indira Gandhi with the greatest possible majority. It is earnestly hoped that she will rise to the occasion and fully justify the confidence reposed in her by the nation.

In order to solve the mammoth problems facing the nation, it may require the induction of best brains in the country in the Cabinet. Mrs. Indira Gandhi will be doing an yeomen service to the nation if she changes over to the Presidential Form of Government where the Ministers' posts will be held by the talented people. This would also prevent the power crazy legislators from playing all sorts of games to get the coveted Ministers' posts.

Besides there will be fewer defections. With two-thirds majority at her command, it will be easier for her to achieve this. Changing over to the presidential system of Government would also mean direct election of the President by the people.

It is true that the present elections were nearly a direct referendum for a Prime Minister's post and among the three contestants Mrs. Gandhi was a stronger and more fitting personality for a large number of voters. However, in the process several worthy candidates of the opposition have been routed, which is not a healthy sign for a democracy. In a presidential system of elections, people have the option of voting directly for a President as well as separately for a candidate for Parliament (i.e. Senate or Lower House). There is a cross voting on several occasions where the worthy candidates from the opposition certainly get preference even if the President is elected with a thumping majority. This also helps to keep the morale of the opposition high and prevents the mass exodus of the rank and file of the opposition to the ruling party.

This country has talent and resources and if they are utilised properly, we can certainly prosper very rapidly.