

Malcolm Fraser had also worked within the constitutional framework although non-traditionally with blocking supply in the Senate and successfully bringing on the departure of a Prime Minister by way of a Governor-General willing to utilize his reserve powers. To further reiterate that while there was an election to give credence to his Prime Ministerial ascendancy what Malcolm Fraser had done was set a precedent that although he was in no way a 'Führer' and had no ambition in establishing a dictatorship – far from it (a point which must be emphatically emphasised) – he had unwittingly laid down the historical groundwork for someone in the future who could by constitutional means make a 'legal attempt' to obtain totalitarian authority over the country.

Despite the economic malaise the country had found itself in and which was also unavoidably brought on by the global oil crisis at the time it would have been better for the long term national good if the Whitlam government had fulfilled its whole term which was only a few months away anyway. Instead there is now every election this ongoing display of every party or independent candidate avowing to not block supply if elected.

Although such a dystopian scenario had seemed fanciful it is disturbing to see that both domestically and globally in the decades to come a sort of incremental corrupting decline in democratic standards that had previously seemed unthinkable including the rise of strongmen who would be more than capable of constitutional manipulation.

After all, in what are presumed to be lesser developed democracies there have been authoritarian leaders who achieved what has appeared to be 'legitimate' total power not by destroying the check and balance pillars of judicial and executive governance that had been set up to accommodate a genuine liberal democracy but rather by hollowing them out to then fill them up with their own puppets who will loyally take their cue from a leader who diligently proclaims is 'serving the people' with a national security apparatus to back up such 'public service' while really only serving one's own interests and the cronies who see the personal benefit in being on side and doing the bidding of someone who effectively has absolute power under the insidious guise of 'managed democracy'.