Regarding “Pompeo, Dems trade intimidation claims” (Nation/World, Oct. 2): Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s response to prevent the testimony of officials from his department is another example from the Russia investigation playbook of the Administration’s stonewalling rhetorical strategy.

Meanwhile, obfuscation and deflection continue. We now wait to see what the Democrats can and will do in response—and what effect it will have. Are we back to the long and drawn out process of going to the courts?

As a colleague of mine worried, the Democrats may have little power. While they can pursue legal action, Trump might not abide by a court order, deciding he doesn't accept the authority of any institution to
have oversight over him and there's nothing anybody can do about that.

That's the problem with Congress's oversight authority: it rests on a good faith agreement between all the stakeholders, and once major stakeholders stop believing in the authority it instantly vanishes.

In fact, our democratic form of government rests on this good faith agreement; perhaps for the first time in our history it doesn't exist. That should trouble all, regardless of political ideology or party preference. We are learning how easy it is for a democratically elected President to become an autocrat.

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