

1 immediate past to the present have been highly responsible
2 people. They also argue that the Comptrollers of the past,
3 by virtue of having an elective office within the Executive
4 Branch, and having substantial voice in the fiscal affairs
5 of the State, have created no problems to the exercise of
6 effective executive control, and it would seem logical to
7 say that if they have not created any effective problems,
8 then they have not in fact been effective watchdogs; and
9 if they have not been effective watchdogs, q.e.d., why do
10 we need them?

11 The question thus seems to me to be presented,
12 which is more likely for the future, that a corrupt governor
13 will escape detection by the legislature, the courts,
14 the president, the post-auditor which this body has created
15 or is it more likely that some future Comptroller will so
16 behave as to impede effective exercise of executive power?

17 We suggest that the question answers itself.

18 The second argument relates to the catch
19 phrase, checks and balances. This is a worthwhile phrase,
20 long ingrained in our political history, but like all catch
21 phrases unless it is used accurately, it can do more damage