

The contention over what Nixon called  
"executive privilege", a doctrine not in Nixon's  
legal reading, was not a simple,  
abstract argument but was the executive  
and legislative branches.

The dispute would have become a dispute  
under any circumstances. With Nixon,  
with his arrogance and his contempt  
for and abuse of the Congress, it was bound  
to be a more serious contest. He had  
eliminated for many of his own part-  
ners, in fact, all the members of the  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
him.

In the context of the law, the battle  
over "executive privilege" became a battle  
over a leadership.