Not representative

Asoka Weerasinghe (Letter, Sept. 3) states, "This feud is between the legitimately elected representatives ... and a handful of unrepresentative extremists of the major minority group, the Tamils ..."

Since 1977 there has been no general election in Sri Lanka. Though elections should have been held in 1983, the government, by resorting to a controversial "referendum," extended the life of Parliament until 1989. Is a "referendum" a legal and democratic substitute for a general election?

George Edwards Ottawa