

President Gerald R. Ford's handwritten reflections, 1977 or 1978

Scanned from the collection **Gerald R. Ford: Materials from the writing of *A Time To Heal*** at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

While writing his autobiography, *A Time to Heal* (New York: Harper & Row, 1979), President Gerald R. Ford composed a series of personal reflections on twenty-seven topics. What makes these documents so unusual is not only their introspection but also their form. President Ford recorded these observations by hand, writing in blue ball point on his favored yellow writing tablets. He did not expend time and energy to polish and edit his writing, apparently planning to do so when incorporating them into the book. Therefore occasional spelling or grammatical errors or incomplete thoughts appear.

For each reflection the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library has scanned President Ford's handwritten document and added a Library-produced transcription below to aid in reading the reflection.

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Art of compromise

Responsible and constructive compromise depends on the good will of the individuals involved and the realization that there is a higher goal than either side winning. One should never adopt the position that he never lost an argument since most issues have two sides to the coin.

Where honest differences exist one must listen respectfully, ask intelligent, knowledgeable questions and speak affirmatively and factually from your point of view. A negotiator must have patience, endurance & faith that ^{in the} end that reasonable & responsible people are more interested in a solution than a stalemate. At the conclusion of a knuckle to knuckle difference one should never berate or condemn the other side or claim 100% success because inevitably there will be another day. The next go round will well obviously have ^{of} automatic road blocks.

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