

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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Creds - do's & don'ts for a young man
going into politics

Don't if you aren't willing to work 90 hrs per week.

you have family or marital problems.

" expect to make a great deal of money.

" do not like people and working on
their problems

" are thinned, scorned and can't take
public criticism.

" if you are only interested in the glamour
of the title or the responsibility.

Do if you are ^{sincerely} interested in government and honestly
think you can help make it work better.

like all people and are interested in
and are willing to work to solve their problems

and willing & eager to work long irregular hours

Do if you are ^{in time and with people} patient, ^{if things go wrong} understanding, and dedicated
to certain basic
committed to the highest standards of
morality & ethics

Credo – Do's and Don'ts for a Young Man Going into Politics

Don't if you aren't willing to work 70(?) hours per week.

you have family or marital problems.

you expect to [unrecognized word] a great deal of money

you do not like people and working on their problems

you are thinned skinned and can't take public criticism.

you are only interested in the glamour of the title or the responsibility.

Do if you are sincerely interested in government and honestly think you can help make it work better

like all people and are interested in & are willing to work to solve their problems

are willing & eager to work long irregular hours

Do if you are patient in time and with people, understanding if things go wrong, and dedicated to certain basic

committed to the highest standards of morality and ethics