

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.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

What I've learned from blacks & other minorities

Blacks & other minorities have shown me that a majority among them have a harder time in our society than whites as a whole. Their job opportunities, both in getting & advancing in employment, are less. Housing opportunities were & to some extent, ^{are} now more limited.

On the other hand blacks & other minorities have shown me that a growing percentage, when given equal educational opportunities, can advance up the economic & social ladder in competition with whites.

Blacks & other minorities have demonstrated to me that an overwhelming majority are committed to domestic tranquility, morality and obedience to the law.

I'm convinced the responsible leadership in these groups recognize that welfare in perpetuity is not the answer but job opportunity plus education, housing, equality before the law are the answer.

What I've Learned from Blacks & Other Minorities

Blacks & other minorities have shown me that a majority among them have a harder time in our society than whites as a whole. Their job opportunities, both in getting & advancing in employment, are less. Housing opportunities were & to some extent are now more limited.

On the other hand Blacks & other minorities have shown me that a growing percentage, when given equal educational opportunities, can advance up the economic & social ladder in competition with whites.

Blacks & other minorities have demonstrated to me that an overwhelming majority are committed to domestic tranquility, morality, and obedience to the law.

I'm convinced the responsible leadership in these groups recognize that welfare in perpetuity is not the answer but job opportunity plus education, housing, equality before the law are the answer.