

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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Regulatory Agencies - why so big, so ineffective
so expensive? What did I try to do about it?

Regulatory agencies invariably come into being because of real or alleged abuse against the public. Nowadays the abuses are not as clear cut but the capability to highlight a problem & propagandise it is greater today than at the time the SEC was first established. This capability may in itself result in un-needed ^{new} federal regulation & the perpetuation of no-longer needed regulation.

However even, whether needed or not a federal regulatory agency without out exception grows in employees, dollar cost, the proliferation of its rules & actions and the expansion of its jurisdiction. The latter takes place whether Congress authorizes a broadening of its charter. This general trend results from human nature - those who work for ^{regulation} an agency are usually deeply interested in the problems under the jurisdiction of the commission or agency and consequently believe the arm of govt can do a better job for the public than any other tool. In addition in some cases those regulated themselves cause problems, legal, technical or otherwise, that add to the work-load. Finally Congress is not immune from blame. It oftentimes piles on new jurisdiction, new paper-work.

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