

## **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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## Impact of T.V. & its consequence

T.V. has revolutionized communications especially in the U.S. but elsewhere wherever available in sufficient magnitude.

The T.V. news shows which are limited in time & depth and <sup>major</sup> opinion makers especially for the non-readers. T.V. documentaries are invaluable educational programs for those who are interested but are susceptible to propagandizing to a particular viewpoint depending on the producers. T.V. panel shows are excellent media events probably the best, because of the mandatory balance in the presentation. T.V. sports are undoubtedly the most accurate because the event is shown "as is." The T.V. entertainment presentations vary - some good, some bad but probably responsive to public taste.

T.V. will undoubtedly have a growing influence on the public & whether good or bad will depend on the public influence. Even though public opinion & impact are difficult to determine I prefer that control to bureaucratic regimentation or government ownership.

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