

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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Washington Parties - what sets them apart?

Washington parties, the ones you read & hear about - are different because of the people involved. They come from around the world representing 150 nations, with different languages, color of skin and deeds or from the U.S. government - the executive, legislative & judicial branches or from the public generally who often times represents specific interests.

No other community in the world can offer such a multi-voiced gathering, big or small. The strictly social affairs can be the seed-bed for major political decisions between Democrats & Republicans, House & Senate opponents, a President & Congressional leaders or U.S. diplomats & their foreign counterparts. One can always find in such a crowd, one or more pairs, peddling quietly to discuss some issue.

The business type parties, emphasizing an issue or a problem, bring together the top people from government ~~the~~ business, labor & other groups who have an eye to gain. Washington is the U.S. focal point for such gatherings, usually in an atmosphere of good spirits and understanding, despite known differences.

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