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, <u>A Time to Heal</u> (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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This image in many enstances is unlersevel in fact, Watergote being the principal greature. The problem is To make the foods concede with the fact. In the longress The Reguldians, altho outnumbered two to one, fought for the economic of energy policies of a Reguldiern Prentit of these policies were sound or successful in reducing the vote of inflation and producing more jobs in the provide sector. Regullian Sports in the Bones + Bende under a Demonste Presedent are still applicative on principal but with the White House of the Congress in Demonstre hands the impression is one Johntructurum Republican tres to big bramers are meneral, in reality no more then those of the Demounts. Big business forenceally supports Demonts in longress as much or more than Capublisms, The lenders Jorgannyel balow, and they control the prense strings, the publications of the momponer, are deput with the Democrato, but The workingman, both organizal & emorganized are not teel irrevocably to the Demounts, especially at the national level. Eisenbruss, Japon of the close Food contest. Minorities 4 the poor are a special problem.

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This achievement must be affirmatively sold.

The G.O.P.'s image today – what it is vs what it should be?

The G.O.P. image today is negative and the number of elective offices held reflect the public impression. Watergate has its residue. The G.O.P. Congressional image is one of obstructionism. The big business anti workingman label persists. Minorities & the poor are distrustful.

This image in many instances is undeserved in fact, Watergate being the principal exception. The problem is to make the image coincide with the fact. In the Congress the Republicans, altho outnumbered two to one, fought for the economic & energy policies of a Republican President & these policies were sound & successful in reducing the rate of inflation and producing more jobs in the private sector. Republican efforts in the House & Senate under a Democratic President are still affirmative on principal but with the White House & the Congress in Democratic hands the impression is one of obstructionism. Republican ties to big business are minimal, in reality no more than those of the Democrats. Big business financially supports Democrats in Congress as much or more than Republicans. The leaders of organized labor, and they control the purse strings, the publications & the manpower, are aligned with the Democrats, but the workingmen, both organized & unorganized, are not tied irrevocably to the Democrats, especially at the national level. Eisenhower, Nixon & the close Ford contest.

Minorities & the poor are a special problem. The Republicans must do two things – make an honest effort to show that our domestic policies are meaningful & successful. It is a tough job because of the long standing allegiance to the Democrats & the distortion of fact. In addition, Republicans must by word & deed show concern for the problems in this part of our society.

Republicans have a good record & image in foreign policy. It is one of peace – ending wars, staying out of wars and international leadership. This achievement must be affirmatively sold.