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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *ly.*THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SEP 9 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: *ROY L. ASH*
SUBJECT: ENERGY R&D ORGANIZATION

This memorandum is a follow up to your instructions that we work with the ERDA conferees in an effort to obtain a favorable conference bill. We met with Chairman Holifield at length and agreed on changes required to eliminate unacceptable provisions in the Senate version. Senators Jackson and Percy have indicated that they will support our most important objections. Conferees will meet in mid to late September following the recess. Chairman Holifield told us he will appoint a strong group of House conferees and prospects appear good for a favorable conference bill. Planning is well underway for implementation of ERDA within 60 days after enactment.

Obtaining an acceptable ERDA now will materially improve the quality of the Government's energy oriented research efforts and make it easier to move toward a comprehensive Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Since the ERDA legislation will probably require that you transmit specific recommendations concerning a DENR by January 31, 1975, OMB is preparing an analysis of the various alternatives. This will reflect the views of all applicable agencies leading toward an option paper for your decision by October 31.

As you requested we are also working to secure from the Congress a reactivation of legislation to provide you with general reorganization authority.

