



H. R. Haldeman Diaries Collection, January 18, 1969 – April 30, 1973

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Wednesday, August 20.

Meeting with Ash's reorganization group. Very good session regarding their basic approach to Executive Office of President. President was quite interested and responsive, and seemed to buy his ideas. Did launch into a half hour side bar on the whole foreign policy problem of State versus Defense versus Kissinger. Called Kissinger in to cover this. Hard to figure exactly why - except as filibuster - and to dazzle them with a little taste of the "big stuff" as they wallowed around in petty problems. President does seem to recognize, though, the need for a new organizational approach and buys the idea of a Domestic Policy Council and an Office of Executive Management. Now have to figure out how to implement the whole thing. Will break a lot of china - especially at Bureau of Budget because really cuts across their lines of responsibility. Must be done. President took group on tour of Residence after meeting. Darn good session overall.

President spent afternoon at the beach with Julie. Had his meeting with Drowns this evening. No report on that yet – but he was really dreading it.