

John F. Kennedy in Hawaii

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During the first week of June, 1963, the chief executives of cities all over the country began moving west, converging on Honolulu for the annual Conference of U.S. Mayors which was held that year at the Hawaiian Village Hotel in Waikiki.

On June 5, 1963, President John F. Kennedy left Washington for a five day tour in the western states, and at the last minute, decided to include Hawaii on his agenda.

He would come here to deliver a personal message to the assembled mayors on the problems of civil rights; problems which had plagued his administration almost from its first day and which were causing increasing turmoil and violence in the cities of the men he would address.

The President arrived in Honolulu at 9 P.M. on Saturday, June 8, and was here for 20 hours. The city had not had much time to prepare a welcome for him, but the spontaneous reception extended by our citizens, the enthusiasm and excitement generated by his presence, made it a memorable time.

This book is a collection of some scenes of his visit.



The President arrives 9:00 p.m. Saturday;



is greeted by Governor John Burns and Senator Daniel Inouye,



and receives an ilima lei from Mrs. Burns.



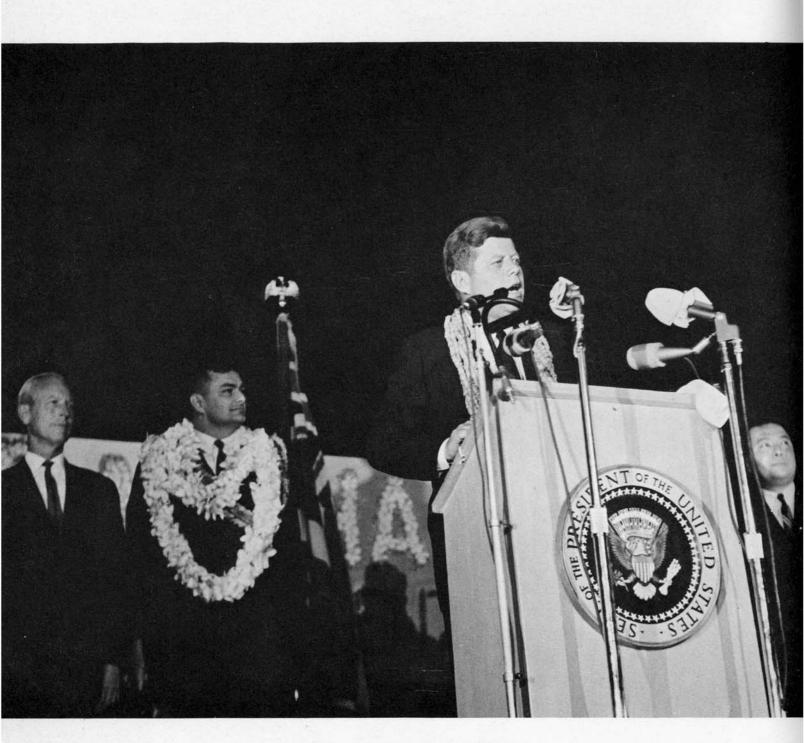
He is welcomed by Mayor Neal Blaisdell,





and others,





and makes a brief speech at plane-side.



Then President Kennedy does what everyone in the crowd is hoping he will do.

Before going to his limousine, he heads for the fence which separates the crowd from the dignitaries and begins the ritual of the Presidential hand shake... and he is a master of it.

Now we begin to understand something of this man as a person.

Though he has been seen innumerable times in pictures and on television, only now do we feel the impact of his personality.

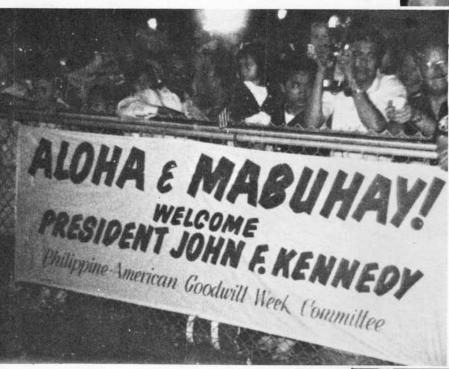
We are impressed with his great warmth and vitality... with his youth and good looks.

And everyone wants to shake his hand; to touch him; to say, "Hello, Mr. President, welcome to Hawaii."











The excitement at the airport ends when the President is escorted to his limousine and driven to the "Hawaii White House" in the guest quarters at Makalapa.

But he will not spend much time there; the next day is a full and busy one.



Accompanied by Admiral Harry D. Felt, he boards the Admiral's barge for the trip to the Arizona Memorial to honor the memory of those who died there.







He goes to the Hawaiian Village Hotel to address the Conference of Mayors. They give him a standing ovation, and the President is in good spirits.



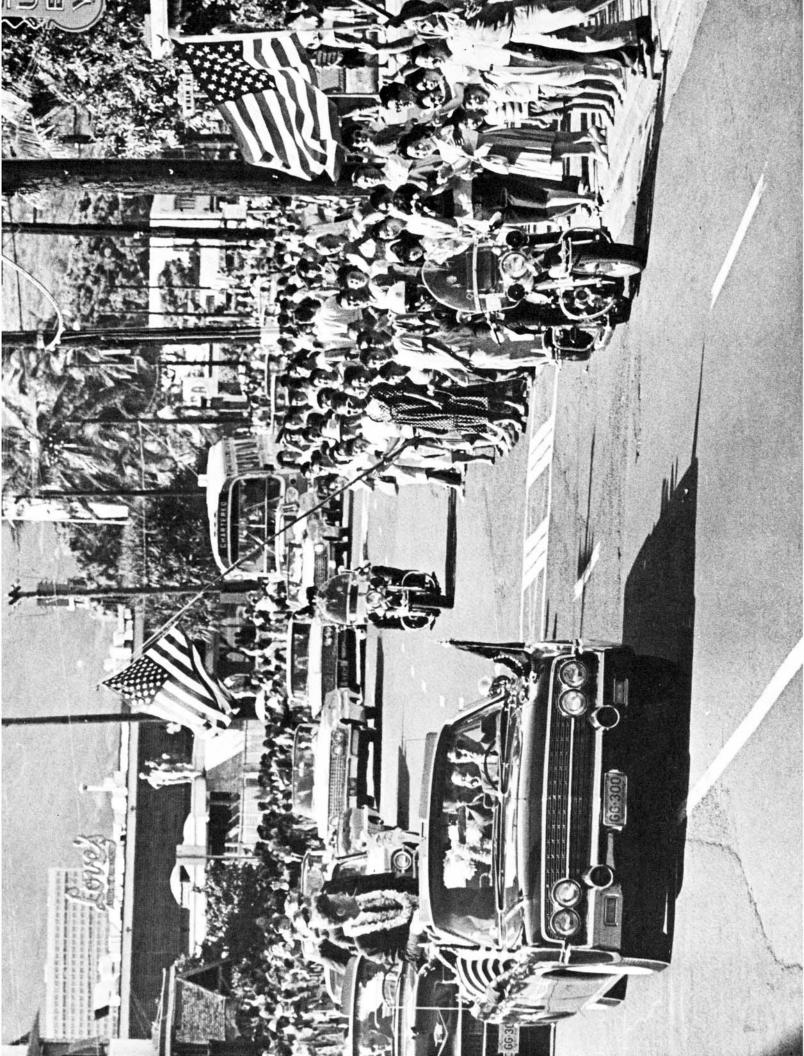
But his message is a serious one.

This is what brought him to Honolulu; to address these men at this meeting. For these are the men who run the cities of America, and they are close to the problems of civil rights. It is in their cities where the negroes are demonstrating with sit-ins and lie-ins, and bus rides and boycotts; it is in their cities where these activities have led to violence.

He tells them that these injustices and outrages must stop, for they are hurting the entire nation.

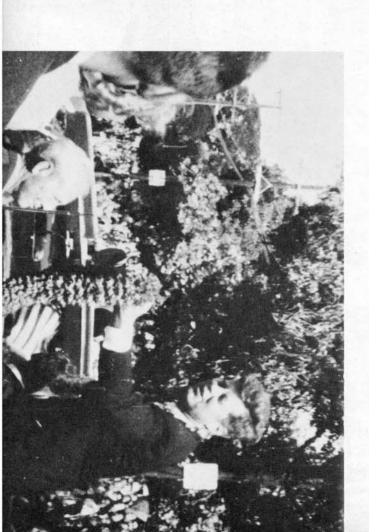
He tells them that the negroes will win their fight for equal rights and our job is to see that this is accomplished peacefully and constructively, and not through violence in the streets.







But the high spot of the day is his motorcade through the city, and more than 100,000 people turn out to see him and cheer him.







A woman presents her baby.

A nun gives him a lei and contentedly returns to her place in the crowd.







Everywhere, the people reach out to him. Thousands of hands...smiles...more hands reaching out... and he responds with an enthusiasm equal to theirs.







Twenty hours is not long, and the end of his visit seems too abrupt. But his message delivered, he drives quickly to the Honolulu Airport, boards the presidential plane,



and is gone.



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