



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

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Sunday, April 19.

In Hawaii. President up early, due to time difference. Called me at 7:00 regarding reaction to yesterday's events. Told him I didn't have a report yet. He went for a walk on the beach with Don Hughes and the Secret Service. Then a 7:30 breakfast with CINCPAC for a briefing on Vietnam, etc. Then to a special service at the Kawaiahao Church. Very fascinating with the old Hawaiian ladies in their long black dresses, etc. Minister was excellent with his use of ukulele in the sermon and a wonderful choir. Then to the airport and back to California.

Church was a memorable highlight of the weekend - with an order of service which I worked up on the plane to Texas. Worked out well, ending with "God Bless America" which minister had us sing a second time, "Three notes lower, Charlie." Great island atmosphere, outstanding sermon and minister, wonderful music, Hawaiian and other. Big crowd outside - President thoroughly enjoyed.

Not too much time with President on plane - except for general critique of trip - as he worked on the speech most of the way. He felt, and I agree, that the ceremonies at Houston and Hawaii should have been held inside - for better TV, crowd reaction, opportunity to build emotional response, etc. Not that they were bad - actually the whole operation was superb, but he's right on the inside idea for all futures. Again a factor of playing the whole thing to TV and the mass audience - not just to the live crowd and for atmosphere.

Still planning a press conference Thursday - but trying to figure out time and format. Doesn't want to go again on prime time for third time in one week.