



Advertiser Photo by Jerry Y. Chong

Snorkel, top left, lowers 100-foot string of firecrackers set off last night at HIC dedication.

## 7,000 Attend Opening Program Of Nine-Day HIC Dedication

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With prayers, speeches and the lighting of thousands of firecrackers, Honolulu International Center was dedicated last night.

Ceremonies began with the blowing of traditional Hawaiian conch shells while 7,000 persons gathered on the ewa side of the HIC complex.

Art Linkletter, master of ceremonies for the opening's "Hollywood Party of the Stars," was made an honorary citizen of Honolulu by Mayor Blaisdell, and a hau tree was planted at the spot in his honor.

The Very Rev. Msgr. Charles A. Kekumano, Bishop Zenkyo Komagata and the Rev. Abraham K. Akaka conducted prayers blessing the \$14.4 million complex.

KEKUMANO expressed the hope that the Center will "give every opportunity for growth of the minds and hearts" of the people of Hawaii.

Akaka, using water from the Kawaiahao Church spring and a koa bowl that had belonged to Kamehameha the Great, sprinkled the plaque dedicating the Center to the State's war dead. In his prayer, Akaka said: "Let our Honolulu International Center ever be a symbol of Your aloha."

Kekumano and Akaka prayed in English and in Hawaiian. Bishop Komagata prayed in Japanese.

GOVERNOR BURNS said in his dedication speech: "The only thing that lives in a nation is its culture. The culture and art its peo-

ple produce leave a lasting imprint on the future. It is fitting that this building should be dedicated to those who have given their lives for their country."

Masato Doi, chairman of the City Council, said that the HIC was for the people of the world, as well as those of Hawaii. He said: "We say from our hearts komo mai. Welcome and come in."

"It is with a deep sense of gratitude, it is with a deep feeling of enduring love that I tonight dedicate these facilities to the men and women of Hawaii who served their country in time of war," Blaisdell said.

THE MAYOR then cut a maile lei surrounding the plaque and unveiled it.

It reads: "Honolulu International Center: Dedicated to All the Sons and Daughters of Hawaii Who Served Their Country in Time of War and in Special Tribute to Those Who Gave Their Lives in Order That Freedom and Justice Might Prevail throughout the World."

Hawaiian youths clad in malos lighted 300 torches surrounding the Center complex.

When they finished, a fireman was lifted on top of a snorkel platform and reeled down to the ground a 100-

foot string of firecrackers which were lighted and exploded for about five minutes.

"THE HOLLYWOOD Party of the Stars" kicked off the nine-day formal dedication celebration with a big jolly show full of laughs.

Radio and TV personality Linkletter, whose home away from home is Hawaii, was master of ceremonies for the star-studded entertainment from radio and TV in Hollywood and Hawaii.

There was flame-haired Rhonda Fleming belting out her own version of the wartime song, "Bless 'em All." Rotund comedian Allan Sherman. Comedy-monologist Paul Linde, best remembered as the frustrated father of a teenage girl in "Bye Bye Birdie."

Hugh (Wyatt Earp) O'Brian, Hawaii's own Ponce Ponce, cut-ups Ruta Lee and Kay Stevens, Chuck Connors, Cliff (Charlie Weaver) Arquette, Richard Boone, sporting a stub of a beard he's growing for an upcoming movie and Percy Botkin, the "poor man's Arthur Godfrey."

LAURITZ MELCHIOR's honning baritone filled the hall during his rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

And the one gal who was all seriousness and stole the show, Hawaii's Eleu Butterworth, an 8-year-old pint-sized charmer with a voice twice her size and the stage presence of a veteran.