

If one assumes that Baker may have been serving a Nixon rather than a strictly Republican role, then the exact language and the meaning of his formulation of his "apology" for the racist slur against his colleague, Senator Inoye, is interesting.

Wilson, the ultra-reactionary racist, was more than the lawyer for Ehrlichman and Haldeman. He could not be their counsel without also representing Nixon. Nixon had, in fact, received him at the White House when he ~~was~~ assumed representation of his two top aides. ~~They~~ ^{Nixon and Wilson} appeared together on TV, an exception for the Nixon of recent years, who has remained cloistered and has banned the cameras. And if any case were made against these two, it was a case against Nixon.

Moreover, Wilson, in his crusty and improper intrusions that he knew would be on nationwide TV, had also been partisan, for Nixon rather than just for his ~~at~~ acknowledged clients. With or without retainer and contract, Wilson was Nixon's lawyer.

With the contrary responsibility, by this time Baker also was showing partisanship, subtly but detectably. His speeches disguised as explanation of questions and his questions, as well as his manner, were defensive of Nixon and the White House.

So, when Wilson made and then twice repeated his fascist insult, repeating it twice on nationwide TV and then having the gall to defend it, and at the first session thereafter Ervin began by extolling Inoye's wartime bravery, which had cost him his right arm and earned the Distinguished Service Cross, Baker took a different tack that was also a big fat hint:

"A mark of Senator Inoye's greatness is that I am sure it (the insult by counsel for Nixon, Ehrlichman and Haldeman) will not effect" ~~whatever Inoye might think, do and~~ whatever Inoye might think, do and decide.

In a sense this was also a warning to Inoye that should he take a hard line in committee deliberations, Baker might accuse him of prejudice because he had been so grossly insulted by the counsel for the trio who really stood accused by the evidence.

(That other Nixonian of Nixonian principle, Spiro Agnew, had created a furor during the 1968 campaign by referring to a Japanese-American reporter as "a fat Jap." But Agnew was more impartial. He also referred to "Polacks.")