

# Qualified Apology Over Lawyer's Slur on Inouye

## Washington

Several senators rose yesterday to the support of Watergate committee member Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, and the lawyer who called him "that little Jap" made a qualified

apology.

"I had no intention to insult Senator Inouye," said attorney John J. Wilson in a statement. "I am sorry I said it and will personally apologize when Senator Inouye apologizes for calling

my client a liar over the networks."

The reference was to Inouye's offhand and overheard remark, "What a liar," following testimony before the Senate committee last week by former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman.

## REMARK

Wednesday, in a comment to a newsman following morning testimony by another Wilson client, former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman, an angry Wilson referred to the Hawaii Democrat as "that little Jap."

Given wide publicity, the incident triggered strong reactions from Japanese-Americans, especially in Inouye's home state where 36.7 per cent of the population is of Japanese extraction, as is the senator.

Wilson was called a bigot, and numerous persons pointed out that Inouye lost his right arm and won the Distinguished Service Cross fighting with the U.S. Army's crack Nisei unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, in Europe during World War II.

## ERVIN

As the Senate committee resumed its hearing yesterday, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., the chairman, paid tribute to Inouye as "one of the most dedicated Americans this country has ever known . . . one of the most gallant Americans in the history of the Republic."

The North Carolina Democrat said he felt the events made it appropriate for him to comment.

*Associated Press*