



The New York Times/Mike Lien

Senators Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, left, and Joseph M. Montoya of New Mexico yesterday at the Watergate hearing, at which Mr. Inouye was praised as an outstanding American. He had been termed "that little Jap" Wednesday by John J. Wilson, a lawyer.

NYTimes AUG 3 1973
**Inouye Says 'Thank You'
 To Senators—in Hawaiian**

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2— Senator Daniel K. Inouye was saying "mahalo and aloha" today—but not to John J. Wilson, the lawyer who referred to him yesterday as a "little Jap."

The 48-year-old Democratic Senator, who lost his right arm in combat in Italy during World War II, said the Hawaiian words mean "Thank you very much and I love you both."

Senator Inouye uttered the words in response to high praise for his Americanism from Senators Sam J. Ervin Jr. and Howard H. Baker Jr., the chairman and co-chairman respectively, of the Senate Watergate committee.

On his part, Mr. Wilson, who earlier had said that he would not object to being called a "little American," issued a statement declaring that he had had "no intention to insult Senator Inouye."

However, the blunt-spoken, 72-year-old Mr. Wilson said that he would apologize only when Mr. Inouye "apologizes for calling my client a liar over national television."

Mr. Wilson represented both John D. Ehrlichman, the former domestic affairs adviser to President Nixon, and H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, at the hearings.

California Case

Last week, after he had finished questioning Mr. Ehrlichman on one occasion, Senator Inouye said "What a liar" in an aside that was picked up by what he apparently thought was a dead microphone.

Mr. Wilson objected yesterday as Mr. Haldeman finished his responses to Mr. Inouye's inquiries into Mr. Haldeman's involvement in a court case dealing with unfair election practices during

the 1962 California governorship campaign.

Mr. Wilson's remark, like Senator Inouye's, apparently was not intended for dissemination. He was chatting with two United Press International reporters during a break in the hearings, when he was asked whether he objected to the rigorous questioning of his client by Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut.

"Oh, I don't mind Senator Weicker," Mr. Wilson said, "what I mind is that little Jap."

Later, the white-haired attorney said that he had not known he would be quoted on the remark.

As for Mr. Inouye's comment on Mr. Ehrlichman, an aide said today that the Senator felt "an apology would serve no purpose at this time."

Meanwhile, his Senate office reported that it had been "deluged" by telegrams and telephone calls "overwhelmingly" supporting him.

And before Senator Inouye's arrival at the Watergate hearings this morning, Senator Ervin, a fellow Democrat, took the microphone to declare that he did not know "a finer American."

"There is no man who is more loyal or dedicated to his country," added Senator Baker, a Republican.

"We are in a tension-filled atmosphere and it is unfortunate that things of this sort occur," he said.

At the Senate itself, Senator Mike Mansfield, the Democratic leader, said he thought Mr. Inouye was "the biggest American in this body." Other members also praised him and attacked Mr. Wilson.

From Hawaii, the reaction was at least as strong as it



Daniel K. Inouye in Army uniform after World War II, in which he lost arm.

was in 1968 when Spiro T. Agnew, the Republican vice-presidential candidate, then on a trip to the island state, jokingly referred to a Japanese-American reporter for The Baltimore Sun as "the Fasi of Honolulu, a Democrat, said "I deeply and bitterly resent the contemptible remark you made," in a telegram today to Mr. Wilson.