

"That's just the way I speak. I consider it a description of the man. I wouldn't mind being called a little American." Thus John J. Wilson, lawyer for H. R. Halde- man and John Ehrlichman, explained (if that is the word we want) his disdainful allusion to Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) as "that little Jap." As is so often the case with people who perceive their fellow citizens in this way, Mr. Wilson's "explanation" was, if anything, more revealing than his original remark. That is, as distinct from Senator Inouye ("that little Jap"), Mr. Wilson thinks of himself as an American. What, then, does he think Senator Inouye is? A foreigner? A foreigner

... serving in the United States Senate? A foreigner who lost his right arm in World War II fighting in the American army in Europe? A native-born American who has won the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in action and who has spent most of his adult life in public service and who is nonetheless . . . somehow . . . a *foreigner*?

Well, whatever else Mr. Wilson may assume about these matters, we think he's got one thing exactly right. "I wouldn't mind being called a little American," Mr. Wilson said. The small and squalid spirit of his remarks suggests to us that the description will do just fine.