

Lawyer's Ethnic Slur on Inouye

Washington

H. R. Haldeman's lawyer referred to Senator Daniel K. Inouye (Dem-Hawaii) as "that little Jap" yesterday and said later he saw nothing wrong with the comment, adding: "I wouldn't mind being called a little American."

John J. Wilson, 72, made the first remark after the morning session of the Senate Watergate hearings when a reporter asked if he believed Haldeman had been questioned fairly by Senator Lowell P. Weicker (Rep-Conn.).

"Oh, I don't mind Senator Weicker," replied Wilson, whose response was clearly heard by two UPI reporters. "What I mind is that little Jap."

Wilson nodded his head in the direction of Inouye, a member of the committee and a much-decorated U.S. Army veteran who lost his right arm fighting in Europe in World War II. Inouye was born in Hawaii; his parents came from Japan.

"I don't think it's necessary to comment," said Inouye when asked for his reaction. "I think his statement speaks for itself."

MUTTER

Inouye was heard last week to mutter to an aide "what a liar" after he had questioned former presidential aide John D. Ehrlichman, also Wilson's client. Inouye apparently thought his microphone was dead at the time.

Wilson, questioned about his own comment late yes-

terday, acknowledged that he meant Inouye when he used the phrase "that little Jap" and told reporters:

"That's just the way I speak. I consider it a description of the man — I wouldn't mind being called a little American."

"I've had at least 500 telegrams from all over the country about his calling my client a liar," Wilson said. "I think he should apologize. I don't care if it was intentional or unintentional."

Inouye first denied he had called Ehrlichman a liar, but when he was told his remark had been overheard, Inouye said, "I must have been speaking of myself."

INTENSE

Wilson's "little Jap" remark came after intensive questioning by Inouye, Weicker and other senators about Haldeman's former activities as White House chief of staff.

Inouye had tried to question Haldeman about his having been cited by a court

From Page 1

for unethical campaign practices in Mr. Nixon's 1962 race for the California governorship.

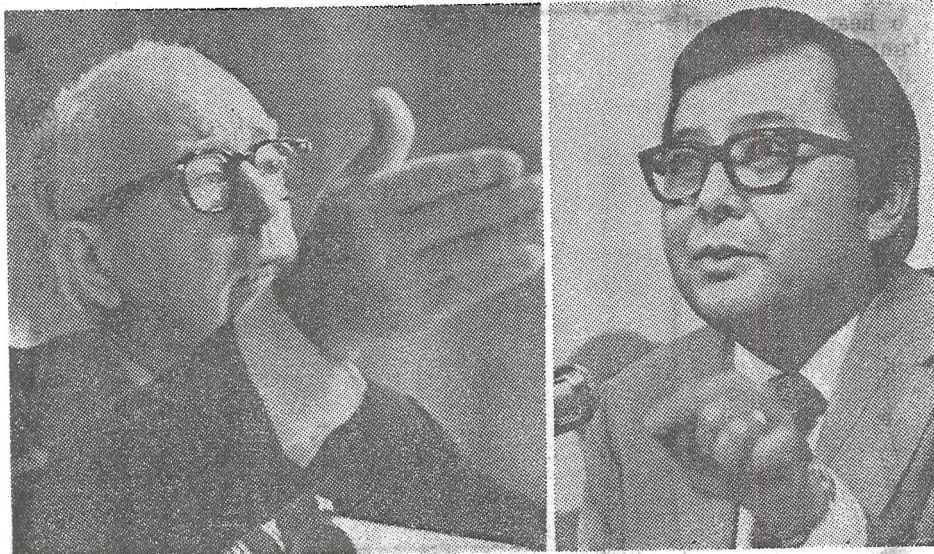
Wilson objected on grounds of relevancy and was upheld by chairman Sam J. Ervin (Dem-N.C.).

For the Nixon administration, yesterday's remark by Wilson was seen as somewhat awkward in that it occurred while Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka of Japan is making a state visit to Washington.

In Los Angeles, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii called on Wilson to "immediately and publicly" apologize to Senator Inouye.

Evan Shirley said, "This type of racial derogatory slam . . . is out of step in 1973 and should never have happened in the history of this country." *United Press*

Back Page Col. 1



AP Wirephotos

HALDEMAN'S LAWYER JOHN WILSON AND SENATOR DANIEL INOUE
"I wouldn't mind being called a little American," Wilson said