

Ethnic Remark Angers Hawaii

Honolulu

Hawaiians reacted with outrage yesterday to a public reference to Senator Daniel Inouye (Dem-Hawaii) as a "little Jap."

"I deeply and bitterly resent the contemptible remark you made," Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi said in a telegram to John J. Wilson, 72, who made the comment during a recess in the Senate Watergate hearings in Washington, D.C.

Wilson is the lawyer for former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman.

Fasi noted that more than 200,000 residents of Honolulu are of Japanese ancestry.

Fasi said that if Wilson visits Honolulu, "I will introduce you to my lovely wife, who happens to be of Japanese ancestry, and to my 11 children, who share that heritage. Following the introduction it will be a great pleasure for me to personally throw you out of my office."

Fasi also asked Robert Meserve, president of the American Bar Association, to "begin immediately disciplinary proceedings against Mr. Wilson. He is a disgrace

to the legal profession."

Hawaii Governor John A. Burns said, "Callous ethnic slurs based on emotions do not deserve to be dignified by a comment."

He said, "Senator Inouye has abundantly demonstrated his loyalty as an American through distinguished service to his country, both in war and in peace."

George Ariyoshi, Hawaii's first lieutenant governor of Japanese ancestry, said, "Most Americans will react negatively to Mr. Wilson's statement. I'm glad that I am a citizen of a great country in which this kind of intolerance is the exception rather than the rule."

State Senate President David McClung cabled Wilson and told him, "Your racial epithet . . . is unforgivable. I'm glad I wasn't there or I might have been prompted to throw a good old right punch in your direction."

"Dan didn't because of two reasons — first, he's too much of a gentleman; second, he couldn't. He left his right arm on a hill in France, fighting to rid the world of bigotry."

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