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Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, left, chats with Sen. Joseph Montoya during brief break in yesterday morning's hearings.

WXPPost Inouye Swamped With Praise

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Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), who was called "that little Jap" during a recess in the Senate Watergate hearings Wednesday, received hundreds of apologies yesterday from embarrassed Americans and praise from fellow senators.

John J. Wilson, attorney for both former White House chief-of-staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and presidential adviser John D. Ehrlichman, and the man who made the remark, released a statement saying "I am sorry I made it and will personally apologize to Sen. Inouye when he apologizes for calling my client (Ehrlichman) a liar over the networks."

Inouye was heard to remark over national television last week, "What a liar," on what he apparently thought was a dead microphone after questioning Ehrlichman.

Wilson's "little Jap" comment came while Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was in Washington meeting with President Nixon. On the same day, the two leaders announced agreements in an 18-point communique.

An official of the Japanese Embassy here said that Tanaka, who left for New York yesterday, was aware of Wilson's remark but had no comment. The embassy received at least a dozen telephone calls of apology from upset Americans, a secretary said.

The angriest reaction to Wilson's comment apparently was in Hawaii, where more than one-third of the population is of Japanese extraction. Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi sent a telegram to Wilson saying that if Wilson visits him, "it will be a great pleasure for me to personally throw you out of my office."

Hawaii State Senate President David McClung telegraphed Wilson to say that if he had been present, he "would have thrown a good old right-hand punch in your direction." McClung said Inouye was too much of a gentleman to do that and "he left his right arm on a hill . . . fighting to rid the world of bigotry."

Senate Watergate Committee chairman Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.) opened yesterday's hearings by calling Inouye "one of the most gallant of all Americans" and mentioning that Inouye received the Distinguished Service Cross during World War II combat. Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.), committee vice chairman, added, "A mark of Sen. Inouye's greatness is that I am sure it (Wilson's remark) will not

affect" Inouye's judgment.

Wilson's statement yesterday also said, "I made the remark during the luncheon recess to a UPI man who had been sitting next to me throughout the hearing. I thought it was an off-the-record remark, the same as a number of my conversations with him. I had no intention to make it public and I had 'Inouye.'"

Inouye was not available for comment yesterday. Inouye said Wednesday, "I think his (Wilson's) statement speaks for itself."

Inouye's office reported that by early yesterday it had received 252 telegrams, all but one sympathetic to no intention to insult Sen. Inouye.

A reporter for Asahi Shimbun, the largest newspaper in Japan, said that it

and most other major Japanese newspapers had carried articles on Wilson's remark.

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Associated Press

THE RECORD—Minority counsels Donald Sanders, left, and Fred Thompson, examine huge stack of transcripts of completed testimony in the Senate Watergate hearings.

The furor caused by Wilson's comment was comparable to that in 1968 when Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, then campaigning for the office, referred to a Japanese-American reporter as "a fat Jap." Agnew later apologized.