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1st Yoshida Cabinet - Biographical Notes

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1ST YOSHIDA CABINET

Transportation Minister: HIRATSUKA Tsunejiro

Welfare Minister: KAWAI Yoshinari

Commerce and Industry Minister: HOSHIJIMA Jiro

Education Minister: TANAKA Kotaro

Agriculture and Forestry Minister: WADA Hiroo

Justice Minister: KIMURA Tokutaro

Finance Minister: ISHIBASHI Tanzan

Home Minister: OMURA Seiichi

State Minister: SAITO Takao

State Minister: UEHARA Etsujiro

State Minister: KANAMORI Tokujiro

Chief Cabinet Secretary: HAYASHI Joji



Prime Minister, Foreign Minister: YOSHIDA Shigeru

(See notes on the 2nd and 3rd Yoshida Cabinets)

Communications Minister: HITOTSUMATSU Sadayoshi

(See notes on the Ashida Cabinet)

State Minister: SHIDEHARA Kijuro

(See notes on the Shidehara Cabinet)



*1st Goshida Cabinet*

Transportation Minister: HIRATSUKA Tsunejiro

Born November 1881, Niigata Prefecture; married Yoshi, daughter of Seiroku Tsutsumi.

Career:

Vice-President, Japan Crab Canning Co. (Merger of 10 companies) - 1940

President, Nichiro (Japan-Russia) Fishery Co., 7 December 1938

President, Karafuto Kyodo Fishery Co.

President, Taiheiyo Fishery Co.

President, Taiheiyo Godo Canning Co., 1935

President, Karafuto Daido Canning Co.  
Crab Canning Co.

Ominato Refrigerating Co.

Auditor, Hakodate Dockyards

Director, Toyo Machinery Co.

Elected to the Diet in 1946.



Welfare Minister: KAWAI Yoshinari

Kawai's books on political and economic subjects render him purgeable under Paragraph 5, sub-paragraph 2, of the Japanese Government's Interpretation of Category G. Excerpts from these works show that Kawai has consistently preached the "divine race" theory that he advocated the creation of a totalitarian state in Japan and instigated war against China, Great Britain and the United States.

Born 1886. Kawai began his career in Government service and worked his way to successively higher posts in the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce. He left Government service in 1919 to enter the fields of private industry and education. In the succeeding years he served as Managing Director of two insurance firms, lectured at Tokyo Imperial University, wrote books that established his reputation as a political economist and was tried for illegal manipulation of securities. In 1939 visited Manchukuo as Economic Advisor to the puppet government. During the War he was elected Vice-Mayor of Tokyo and appointed a Director of the Ship Building Bureau in the Transportation Ministry, offices that he held in addition to his positions in private business. Soon after the termination of hostilities he became Advisor to the Welfare Ministry and shortly after was appointed Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. In March 1946 he was elevated to the House of Peers. Kawai is a member of the Progressive Party.



Commerce and Industry Minister: HOSHIJIMA Jiro

Hoshijima entered the House of Representatives in 1920 and was re-elected 9 times. At no time, according to his questionnaire, has he engaged in any activities which would bring him under the provisions of the Purge Directive.

Hoshijima was a member of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and a member of the Railway Committee and of the Commerce and Industry Committee within that organization. He was also President of the Foreign Moving Picture Co., Ltd. in 1942 and Director of Moving Picture Public Co. in 1945. Ordinary members of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association are not affected by SCAPIN 550. The critical period for the Public Information Media is from 1937 to 1941. Hoshijima does not fall under the Public Information Purge even if these above-mentioned companies should appear on the black list now being compiled by the Japanese Government.

Hoshijima became a member of the Liberal Party after its organization in 1945. Was elected Chairman of the Party's Political Investigation Committee in 1946. Ran for the House of Representatives from Okayama Prefecture on the Liberal ticket and was re-elected on 25 April 1947. At present advisor of Democratic Liberal Party.

Born 1887 in Okayama Prefecture. Graduated from Tokyo Imperial University in 1917 after majoring in law and delving into the field of German law. While a student at the University, he founded the publication "University Critique", a magazine on politics and economics. Later he edited the "Central Legislation News". He was director of the Youth Society of Tokyo, Imperial University.

Hoshijima practiced law from 1918 until 1920 when he first won a seat in the House of Representatives. He was re-elected 9 times thereafter.

In 1935 he traveled to Europe as delegate to the International Parliamentary Assembly of the League of Nations, and the General Assembly of the Nazi Party. After his return from Europe, he recorded his enthusiastic impressions of Hitler's eloquence and strength and lauded his ideals and achievements, but did not clearly commit himself to any belief in the ideals or aims of the Nazi Party. Did concur with a statement by Rudolph Hess that Russia was an enemy common to both Germany and Japan.

He was appointed Associate Officer of the Railway Ministry in 1936. Was Vice-Minister in Charge of Political Affairs of Ministry of Justice in 1939. Appointed Minister of Commerce and Industry in 1946. On 1 February 1947 was replaced in this office by ISHII Mitsujiro, but was retained in the Cabinet as Minister without Portfolio until the fall of the Yoshida Cabinet.

Member Discriminatory Punishments Committee and Legislative Committee of House of Representatives.



Education Minister: TANAKA Kotaro

Tanaka's questionnaire states that he was a non-regular official entrusted with legal investigations for the Naval Ministry in 1943. When asked by this Section to present more detailed information concerning the nature of this position, Tanaka stated that he was requested in 1944 to become a shokutaku with the Naval Ministry but did not receive an official written appointment. He claims he only participated in round table discussions while working with the Ministry and believes he served until 1945.

Tanaka's questionnaire also states he was a non-regular official of the East Asia Research Institute (Toa Kenkyu Jo). In his reply to questions asked by this Section he said he was merely attached to the investigation section of commercial customs within that organization.

A copy of Tanaka's article entitled "Theory and Policy of the Legal Co-operative Community among the East Asiatic Nations" published in 1942 was submitted to this Section upon request. Review by competent language personnel reveals that it is a purely academic treatise on private international law and in no way was connected with the theories of the "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere."

Tanaka's father-in-law, MATSUMOTO Joji, was removed from office 1 June 1946 because he was an auditor of the South Manchurian Railway Co., Ltd. and came within the scope of provision "E" of the Imperial Ordinance 109.

Tanaka is currently an advisor of the Democratic Party.

Born 1890 in Kagoshima City. After graduation from Tokyo Imperial University Law School in 1915, Tanaka became a petty official of the Bureau of the Meiji Shrine Construction and of the Home Ministry. In 1917 he was appointed an assistant professor in the Tokyo Imperial University. Tanaka traveled through America and Europe from 1919 to 1922 studying commercial law and after his return to Japan was assigned as professor in the Commercial Law Department at Tokyo Imperial University and remained in this capacity until 1937 when he was promoted to the position of Dean of the Law Faculty, a position which he retained until 1939.

Tanaka traveled throughout North and South America for six months in 1939 as a member of a Japanese cultural mission, and lectured at several institutions in Brazil and Chile. In 1941 he traveled to French-Indo China to teach Japanese culture in the universities at Hanoi and Saigon. From October 1945 to March 1946, Tanaka was acting President of the Tokyo Academy of Music. In October 1945 he was appointed Director of the Bureau of School Education at the Ministry of Education, a position which he still retains. Tanaka was appointed councillor for the Central Liaison Office in 1945, and Chairman of the Committee for Revising Educational Processes in that same year.

Tanaka was Minister of Education in the Yoshida Cabinet from May 1946 until his resignation in January 1947. Tanaka has held various positions of importance in numerous educational, religious and international societies throughout his career. Since 1931, he has been Director of the Legal Research Society; President, Tokyo Imperial University Catholic Research Association; Councillor, Research Association on State Sciences and Councillor for the



Japan French Hall. In 1940, he became Standing Director of the Japan-Italian Scientific Society and in 1941, member of the Imperial Academy, Japan Scientific Research Conference, and Der Deutsch Japanische Verein (The German-Japanese Association).

Since 1942 he has been Councillor for the National Scientific Association; Councillor, Japan and Foreign Roman Catholic Friendly Association and member of the Japan Scientific Promotion Society. Tanaka still retains his directorship in La Societe Central Amarique Latine, Japan Chile Society and the Japan Brazil Central Society which he acquired in 1943. He has, in addition, been an official of student associations, welfare organizations and Roman Catholic groups.

Tanaka has published many works on legal matters and cultural subjects among which are: "Law, Religion and Social Life", 1927; "Treatise on Company Law", 1929; "General Principles of Commercial Law", 1931; "Theory of the World Laws" (in 3 volumes), 1932; "Treaty of Company Law in China", 1933; "Dictionary of Jurisprudence" and "Treaty of Bills of Exchange and Cheque", 1935; "Basis of Culture and Civilization", 1937; "Travels in Latin America", 1942; "Essays on the Philosophy of Law", 1943; "Education and Authority" and "Education and Politics" in 1946. He has also lectured extensively on these subjects.

While serving in the Yoshida Government, Tanaka was frequently accused of reactionary tendencies. As Minister of Education he openly opposed the Teachers' Union, and forbid both teachers and students to take part in the 1946 May Day demonstration. He professes to believe that instructors should use only factual material in their classes and should refrain from expressing opinions which might influence their students' thinking.

An ardent catholic and an active participant in many church functions, Tanaka is admittedly a conservative. On 25 February 1946, he was quoted as saying: "Although wartime militarism and totalitarianism are wrong, they represent the principle of order, and when this order collapsed, social and spiritual confusion set in."



Agriculture and Forestry Minister: WADA Hiroo

A career official in the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, Wada's questionnaire contains nothing to indicate that he falls under SCAPIN 550. He, in fact, was arrested on 4 April 1941 for violation of the Peace Preservation Law and remained in prison until 27 April 1944.

Wada has not formed any obvious political affiliation. His refusal to join the Liberal Party was a contributory factor in his forced resignation from the Yoshida Cabinet in January 1947. The extreme rightist element of the Liberal Party contested his appointment as Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. The Social Democrats have urged him to join their party, but he has remained aloof from political ties. He ran as an independent and was elected to the House of Councillors from the National Constituency in April 1947.

Born 1903 in Saitama Prefecture. After graduation from Tokyo Imperial University in 1924, he entered the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry where he occupied successively more important posts until 1941, including those of Inspector and later Secretary of the Cabinet Planning Board, 1937; Chief, Rice Administration Section, Bureau of Rice and Cereals, 1938; Secretary of the Manchurian Affairs Secretariat and concurrently of the East Asia Board, 1939; Chief, Agriculture Ministry Secretariat, 1940; and Chief, Agricultural Administration Section of the Agricultural Administration Bureau, 1941. In April 1941, during the notorious "Planning Board Incident" Wada was arrested for violation of the Peace Preservation Act primarily because he had books on Marxism in his possession. He spent the greater part of the war in prison and was not finally acquitted until September 1945. After his acquittal, he was reinstated in the Government Service as director of the Agricultural Administration Bureau with rank of Chokunin Official, 2nd grade. On 25 May 1946, he was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, a position he retained until 31 January 1947. In June 1947, he was appointed Chairman of the Economic Stabilization Board.



Justice Minister: KIMURA Tokutaro

Kimura was Chief of the Shibuya Ward Branch (Tokyo) Dai Nippon Yokusan Sonendan or the Imperial Rule Assistance Youth Association of Great Japan, an affiliate of IRAA. This position falls under Mandatory Provisions of Paragraph IV, Appendix 1 to Cabinet and Home Ministry Ordinance No. 1 of 1947.

Kimura was Director of Dai Nippon Butoku Kai or Great Japan Military Virtue Society from April 1942 until the organization was dissolved. This position falls within the provisions of Category G, Appendix A of SCAPIN 550 according to the memorandum for the Ministry of Home Affairs, 13 March 1947.

Born 1887. Kimura opened a law office after graduation from Kyoto University in 1911 and did not participate extensively in politics until the post war period. He did, however, achieve a national reputation as a lawyer, and at the time of the surrender was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Japan Lawyers' Association. In February 1946 he became Prosecutor General. In addition to his legal positions he is President of Aikoku Fuel Company, Ltd.

Note: On 15 March 1947 Kimura was attacked by a member of the Diet on the charge that he held the two positions outlined above. In reply to these charges, Kimura admitted that he held these posts, but added that his affairs were left entirely to the discretion of Prime Minister Yoshida.



Finance Minister: ISHIBASHI Tanzan

As Editor and President of The Oriental Economist (Toyo Keizai Shimpo-Sha) for the past 20 years, Ishibashi must assume entire responsibility for the Jingoism and imperialistic policies of the publication which he headed. Excerpts from The Oriental Economist show that this magazine under Ishibashi's leadership:

1. Consistently supported Japanese imperialism in Manchukuo from 1931 to 1937.
2. Became increasingly militaristic and forthright in its espousal of aggression after 1937. During the critical period The Oriental Economist specifically:
  - a. Blamed China for the war and approved the actions of the Japanese Army in China.
  - b. Urged the wholesale economic exploitation of North China.
  - c. Demanded support for the Puppet Government of China and the overthrow of the Chiang Kai-Chek Regime.
  - d. Asserted Japan's natural right to lead Asia.
  - e. Advocated a totalitarian system for Japan.
  - f. Defended Japan's adherence to the Axis.
  - g. Accused the United States of an intransigent attitude in her dealings with Japan.
  - h. Approved the suppression of trade unionism.
  - i. Endorsed the newly created Tojo Cabinet.

As principal official of The Oriental Economist in fact as well as in name, Ishibashi clearly comes under Paragraph 5d of the Interpretation of Category G by the Japanese Government.

Born 1884. Joined the Oriental Economist in 1911 and became its Editor in 1924. Ishibashi's reputation as an economist has led to his extensive participation in the Government. Ran for the Diet in 1946 but failed of election. Appointed Minister of Finance on 22 May 1946. In addition to his business and Government posts, Ishibashi has written a variety of works on economic subjects. Re-elected 25 April 1947, first in his district of Shizuoka.

Note: Ishibashi's economic policy has been to permit a continued rise in prices despite the government's stated intention of controlling inflation. This policy greatly benefits Japan's major industrialists and financiers who by liquidating only a small percentage of their material assets can during this period of inflation pay off their commitments particularly their debts to the government in devalued currency. This is possible since their material assets remain constant while their debts contracted in terms of yen decrease in direct proportion as the value of the yen decreases. As official



Home Minister: OMURA Seiichi

Omura held the following positions which were under scrutiny in screening: Vice-Minister of Education in the Abe Cabinet September 1939-January 1940, (category "G") - same position for nine days in Higashikuni Cabinet in 1945; Chief of Police Affairs Bureau of Home Minister (February-June 1937) shortly before applicable period of purge; "Non-Staff Advisor" North China Development Company (1940-1941) (Regular officials of that organization are amenable to the purge); Advisor and member of executive committee Tokyo branch of IRAA (1942-1943) (These positions are not subject to the purge but are clearly more than that of an ordinary member).

Omura is listed as senior director of the Democratic Liberal Party.

Omura was born in 1892 in Okayama. He graduated from Kyoto University in 1917 and thereupon entered the Home Ministry in which for the next several years he held a variety of bureau and section chief posts. He was the governor of Nagano from 1935-1937 and of Kanagawa in 1938.

Omura then became Vice-Minister of Education in 1939 and held the above-mentioned position in the North China Development Company in 1940-1941. (The Japan Who's Who for 1948 (Tokyo News Service) lists that position as "Chief, Research Bureau".) In 1942 and 1943 subject was assistant Mayor of Tokyo, from which post he resigned upon the introduction of the metropolitan system.

After his short term as Vice-Minister of Education in September-October 1945, Omura became Vice-Minister of Home Affairs in January 1946 and Minister of the same branch of government in May of that year. He was appointed a member of the House of Peers in June 1946 and at the end of January 1947 resigned from his Cabinet position.



State Minister: SAITO Takao

Saito, one of Japan's oldest and most venerable parliamentarians, was re-elected to the House of Representatives in the 1942 Tojo elections without the recommendation of the government. He has openly, on several occasions, criticized the militaristic trend of the Japanese Diet and his eloquent protests against the nation's will toward war earned him the title of the "Mark Anthony of Japan".

Saito was a regular member of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association (Taisei Yokusan Kai) from 1942 to 1945, and an ordinary member of the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society (Yokusan Seiji Kai) from May to September of 1945. Ordinary members of these organizations are not subject to the purge directive.

Saito was an advisor to the People's Government Party (Minsei To) from 1937 to 1940 when he was expelled from the Diet because he dared to criticize the military's conduct of the "China Incident".

He joined the Progressive Party (Shimpo To) after the surrender and was later appointed Chief of the Party's General Affairs Committee. In March of 1947 when the Progressive Party together with other political elements formed the Democratic Party (Minshu To), Saito transferred his membership to the newly formed organization. As chairman of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party, the aged parliamentarian remained an "independent", not allying himself with either the "renovatory" or the "conservative" factions within the party. Saito bolted the Democratic Party 15 March 1948 to join the Democratic Liberal Party. He is advisor and chief of the Board of Directors of this party at present date.

Born 1870 in Hyogo Prefecture. Graduated from Waseda University in 1894 and attended Yale University from 1901 to 1904. In 1913 he was a delegate to the International Parliamentary Conference held in Europe and in that same year was appointed Director-General of the Board of Legislation. The following year, 1914, he was elected to the Diet and has held a seat in the Lower House almost continuously to the present time. From 1914, to 1916, he held the position of Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Home Affairs and from 1914 to 1936 was a member of various committees dealing with legislation, unemployment, the food problem, and the control of opium trade. Between 1936 and 1945 Saito was a member of the Parliamentary System Investigation Committee when this group was in session. He returned to the Home Ministry as Parliamentary Vice-Minister in 1929 and served again in this office from 1932 to 1934. In May 1946 Saito was appointed Minister of State without Portfolio in the Yoshida Cabinet and accepted the same position in the Katayama Cabinet.

Since 1947 Saito has been a member of the House of Representatives and is a member of the Cabinet Committee in the House.

Saito's first contention with the Diet occurred in 1936 when he openly criticized the military's policy in the February 26th incident. He rose in protest in 1937 to question the Army's conduct of the China Incident. In



1940 he again spoke out against the military clique's dangerous policies, and as a result was expelled from the Diet.

His expulsion, however, was not unopposed. Although some nationalistic representatives branded him a defeatist, free thinker and no better than a traitor to his country, others spoke out in his defense, but he was voted out by a large majority on 6 March 1940. The storm of controversy concerning his remarks and the subsequent expulsion order have become famous as the "Saito Affair".

The Jiji Press 31 July 1947 reports that Saito was possibly guilty of perjury in his testimony before the Diet Committee on Illegal Property Transactions, in connection with monetary donations to the Democratic Party. Saito claimed to know nothing about a report on the party funds, which had been submitted to the Diet in his name.



State Minister: UEHARA Etsujiro

Although Uehara has written several books on politics and government, none of these were published during the critical period from 1937 to 1941. His works have, however, been reviewed by competent personnel of this Section to obtain an insight into Uehara's political philosophy. This review did not disclose any theoretical or ideological opposition to democratic institutions or processes.

Uehara's name has been closely associated with that of Masazumi Ando, purged March 1946 because of his official position in the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society, and Ichiro Hatoyama, Liberal Party leader who was purged in May 1946 for his part in the promulgation of the notorious Peace Preservation Law of 1925 and for his suppression of freedom of speech and thought while Minister of Education. Uehara, along with other of Hatoyama's collaborators, is said to have held the party line in accordance with the original principals espoused by the purgee while he was a leader of the Liberal Party.

While Uehara is not an undesirable person within the legal interpretation of that term as found in the Purge Ordinances, he has shown himself unsympathetic to democratic reforms and ill-suited for a position of political leadership in present day Japan. During his term of office as Home Minister in the Yoshida Cabinet, Uehara changed the spirit of the Ministry from one of cooperation with SCAP to one of passive resistance to measures designed to democratize the national government or increase local autonomy. Reports to responsible SCAP authorities were unaccountably delayed and Home Ministry investigations ordered by SCAP proved fruitless. On occasion, Uehara publicly expressed opinions indicative of his opposition to changes inherent in the democratization process. A memo for the Chief, subject: Home Minister Uehara, dated 1 May 1947 reports the following facts concerning Uehara.

Immediately after his appointment to the office of Home Minister, he stopped the progressive legislation prepared by his predecessor Seiichi Omura, namely the Political Parties Bill and the Election Law Revision Bill. The latter bill advocated a printed ballot which would have greatly reduced the number of invalid ballots in the forthcoming April elections.

Following Uehara's appointment as Home Minister, the Ministry failed to provide adequate reports on subversive organizations, and to comply swiftly with orders to dissolve such bodies as had been discovered by the Occupation forces themselves. A delinquency in reporting election returns also arose after Uehara took over the Ministerial post.



State Minister: KANAMORI Tokujiro

Tokujiro Kanamori has been criticized and even accused of falling under the purge laws for the following reasons:

a. He was a Council Member of the National Policy Investigation Society (Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai) from 1942 to 1945, and contributor to a book on the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere which was published by this organization.

b. He was a Director of the Great Japan Rise Asia Society (Da Nippon Koa Kai) from August to September 1945.

c. He was sent to Mongolia in August and September of 1939 to advise local officials on legal matters.

Nevertheless, these activities do not bring him under the purge since:

a. The National Policy Investigation Society is not listed in any of the purge ordinances and, specifically, is not included among the so-called research societies and ultra-nationalistic investigation or study groups listed under paragraph III of Appendix I, Cabinet and Home Ministry Ordinance No. 1 of 1947.

b. Similarly the Great Japan Rise Asia Society is not listed in the Ordinances.

c. The only position in the Mongolian Puppet Government listed in the ordinances is that of "Supreme or Political Advisor", sub-paragraph 11, paragraph VI, Appendix I, Cabinet and Home Ministry Ordinance No. 1 of 47.

Born 1886. Graduated from Tokyo Imperial University with honors and entered the Civil Service, as a clerk in the Finance Ministry in 1912. Kanamori's career was that of a typically successful bureaucrat. He rose to Chokunin rank official and President of the Bureau of Legislation in 1934 but retired from Government Service two years later allegedly because he subscribed to the "Emperor-Organ-Theory" expounded by Dr. Minobe, a theory that was highly unpopular with the ultra-nationalists.

During the years immediately preceding the war, Kanamori was a professor at Tokyo Imperial University, and his important war activities were limited to those described above. He returned to active public life after the surrender.

He was appointed member of the House of Peers, later becoming State Minister in charge of constitutional revision in June 1946. At the present time, he is Minister without Portfolio, and is in charge of liaison between SCAP and the Imperial Japanese Government.

Note: Kanamori's book entitled "Summary of the Imperial Constitution", which he wrote in 1934, expounds views similar to those of Dr. Minobe and was partially responsible for Kanamori's forced retirement to private life.



Chief Cabinet Secretary: HAYASHI Joji

Hayashi, born 1889, graduate of Kyoto University. He was first conspicuous in politics when he became mayor of his home town, 1923-1925.

He has been elected to the House of Representatives from Kochi Prefecture six times, first time in 1932. Ran as a non-recommended candidate for the House of Representatives in the 1942 elections and was defeated. States he was persecuted by the militarists during this campaign; however, the ultra-nationalistic tenor of his speeches and campaign bulletins, and his advocacy of Tojo's policies tend to negate such a claim.

From 1931 to 1934 he was private secretary to Hatoyama, then Minister of Education. In 1939 was appointed councillor of Agriculture and Forestry. In the second Yoshida Cabinet, subject held the positions of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Welfare.