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2nd Yoshida Cabinet - Biographical Notes

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2ND YOSHIDA CABINET

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Newsprint and Publications: MORI Kotaro

## 2ND YOSHIDA CABINET

### Biographical Sketches

#### Prime Minister: YOSHIDA Shigeru

Shigeru Yoshida, Prime Minister, concurrently Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General, was born in Tokyo in 1877. His father, Tsuna Takeuchi, was prominent among the statesmen and liberal leaders during the Meiji era. Shigeru Yoshida graduated from Tokyo University in 1906 and began a long diplomatic career beginning with the posts of Vice-Consul in Tientsin, 1906, and Mukden, 1907. Subsequent positions included that of Second Secretary to the Embassy in the United States, 1916; delegate to the Paris Peace Conference, 1919; Consul-General at Tientsin, 1922; envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Sweden, 1928; Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Cabinet of General Giichi Tanaka, 1928; Ambassador to Italy, 1931; Imperial Representative to Special Meeting of League of Nations in Geneva, 1932; and Ambassador to Great Britain in 1936. During the war, Yoshida retired from the diplomatic field. He was arrested by the Japanese in April 1945 and imprisoned for 40 days on charges of allegedly predicting an early Japanese surrender. After the war, he joined the Higashikuni Cabinet in 1945 as Minister of Foreign Affairs and held the same post during the Shidehara Cabinet that followed. On May 22, 1946, he became Prime Minister and served until May 24, 1947, when the Premiership passed to the Social Democratic Party following the elections of April 1947. Shigeru Yoshida has been President of the Democratic Liberal (then Liberal) Party since August 1946.

#### Finance Minister: IZUMIYAMA Sanroku

Sanroku Izumiyama, Minister of Finance, was born in Yamagata Prefecture in 1896. Following his graduation from Tokyo University in 1921, he entered upon a banking career. He held various important posts in financial houses in the specialized fields of investigation, research, auditing and planning. In the elections of 1947, he was elected to the House of Representatives from Yamagata Prefecture. As a member of the Democratic Liberal Party, he served as chairman of the Banking and Finance Subcommittee within the party and played a leading role in defining the party's financial and economic platforms. He is not widely known among banking and economic circles in Japan.

Education Minister: SHIMOJO Yasumaro

Yasumaro Shimojo, Minister of Education, was born in Tokyo in 1885. Following his graduation from Tokyo University in 1910, he entered the Government Service in Saga Prefecture. In 1912, he became a minor official in the Cabinet Secretariat serving in that Secretariat in various capacities until 1924. From 1924 until 1940 he served concurrently as Director of the Bureau of Pensions and the Bureau of Statistics in the Japanese Government. From 1929 until 1940 he was Grand Chancellor of the Orders. He was appointed to the former House of Peers in December 1940. In 1944 Shimojo assumed a professorship of Economics at Nippon University. In 1947 he was elected to the House of Councillors and later joined the Green Breeze Party (Ryokufukai) formed mainly by independent members of that House.

Welfare Minister, Deputy Prime Minister: HAYASHI Joji

Joji Hayashi, Minister of Welfare and Deputy Prime Minister, was born in Kochi Prefecture in 1889. He graduated from Kyoto University in 1918. His father, Yuzo Hayashi, was a Meiji politician of repute from whom Hayashi acquired an early desire to enter politics. He served as Mayor of Tosa, Kochi Prefecture, 1923-1925, and subsequently became a member of the Local Assembly. He then ran for the House of Representatives and was successfully elected to the Diet in 1932. Since that time he was successfully elected to the House of Representatives five times, but failed in the Tojo sponsored elections of 1942. Since the Occupation, he was successfully elected in the 1946 and 1947 elections, having held the post of Chief Cabinet Secretary in the 1st Yoshida Cabinet in 1946. He has been active since 1945 in the organization of the Democratic Liberal Party and remains as an influential leader of the orthodox faction of that party.

Agriculture and Forestry Minister: SUDO Hideo

Hideo Sudo, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, was born in Yamagata Prefecture in 1898. Following his graduation from Tokyo University he entered the Government Service in the Bureau of Standards in 1921. In 1925, he entered the Ministry of Agriculture as a 6th Grade Official. Since that time he has served as a career official in that Ministry for seventeen years. Since Japan's surrender, Sudo served as Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary in the first Yoshida Cabinet from July 1946 until April of 1947. In April 1947, he was elected to membership in the House of Representatives and has served as a member of the Finance Committee during the first and second sessions of the National Diet. Sudo has been a member of the Democratic Liberal Party since January 1946 and has held positions in the party as Vice-Chairman of the Political Affairs Research Committee, Party Manager, and since March 1948, Chairman of the Political Affairs Research Committee.

Commerce and Industry Minister: OYA Shinzo

Shinzo Oya, Minister of Commerce and Industry, was born in Gumma Prefecture in 1894. A graduate of Tokyo Commercial College, he started his career as agent for the Suzuki Trading Firm. In 1928 he entered the Teikoku Rayon Company and held important posts leading to the the Presidency of that Company in November 1945. Since the surrender Oya has held executive positions in various chemical and textile associations. In April 1947, he ran on the Liberal Party ticket for membership in the House of Councillors and was successfully elected by his constituency in Osaka.

Transportation Minister: OZAWA Saeki

Saeki Ozawa, Minister of Transportation, was born in Iwate Prefecture in 1889. Upon graduating from Nippon University in 1916, he practiced law in Tokyo, having membership in the Tokyo Lawyers' Association. He held the elective positions as member of the Tokyo City Assembly during the periods 1931-1933 and 1937-1943, member of the Tokyo Prefectural Assembly from 1936 to 1943; and since the Occupation, has been elected to the House of Representatives in both the 1946 and 1947 elections from Iwate Prefecture. Ozawa has been a member of the Democratic Liberal Party since 1945 and has held posts in the party as Secretary-General, Chief of the Information Department, and member of the Board of Directors.

Communications Minister: FURUHATA Tokuya

Tokuya Furuhata, Minister of Communications, was born in Nagano Prefecture in 1898. He graduated from Waseda University in 1923. In 1927, he joined the Democratic Party (Minseito). His father had been a leader of the defunct Minseito Party and associate of former Japan Premier, Shigenobu Okuma. Furuhata was a proprietor of a hot-spring inn in Nagano Prefecture and during the period 1930-1940 served as vice-president of the Shinano Nippo Newspaper. During the period 1935 until 1941 he was a member of the Nagano Prefectural Assembly. In March 1945, until February 1946, he was Deputy-Mayor of Hongo Village. In June, 1946 he became Secretary to former Premier and State Minister Kijuro Shidehara. In the elections of April 1947, Furuhata was successfully elected to the House of Representatives on the Democrat Party ticket. He left the Democratic Party in December 1947 and joined the Doshi Club formed by 21 former Democratic Diet members and which later joined with the Democratic Liberal Party in March 1948, following their opposition to policies of the Ashida Coalition Cabinet.

Construction Minister: MASUTANI Hideji

Hideji Masutani, Minister of Construction, was born in Ishikawa Prefecture in 1888. Upon graduating from Kyoto University in 1914, he entered the former Ministry of Justice. Serving in minor judgeships in Shimonoseki, Urawa and Nagano Cities, he resigned in 1920 to enter private law practice. As a member of the former Seiyukai Party, which he joined in 1920, he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1932 and 1936. Since the Occupation, he has been elected to the same House during both the 1946 and 1947 elections. In 1946, he was appointed Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs under the Yoshida Cabinet. At present, he is a standing executive of the Democratic Liberal Party.

Labor Minister: MASUDA Kaneshichi

Kaneshichi Masuda, Minister of Labor, was born in Nagano Prefecture in 1898. He graduated from Kyoto University in 1922 and entered the Government Service in Osaka Prefecture the same year. His career has been entirely within the former Home Ministry until he retired in 1936 because of illness. In October 1945, he was appointed Governor of Fukushima Prefecture; and in April 1946, Governor of Hokkaido. In January 1947, he was appointed Minister of Transportation, succeeding Tsunajiro Hiratsuka, in the Yoshida Cabinet, remaining at that post until the Cabinet resigned in May 1947. In the elections of April 1947, Masuda ran on the Liberal ticket and was elected to the House of Representatives. He is a member of the Democratic Liberal Party, formerly Chairman of the Political Affairs Research Committee, and currently an advisor in the party.

Chief Cabinet Secretary: SATO Eisaku

Eisaku Sato, Chief Cabinet Secretary, was born in Yamaguchi Prefecture in 1901. Following his graduation from Tokyo University in 1924, he entered the Government Railways Service, followed by a long career in the Transportation Ministry. In February 1947, he became Vice-Minister of Transportation and remained in that position until March 1948.

State Minister; Director-General Administrative Management Agency: UEDA Shunkichi

Shunkichi Ueda, Minister of State and Director-General, Administrative Management Agency, was born in Oita Prefecture in 1890. After graduating from Tokyo University in 1914, Ueda entered the Ministry of Finance. After serving as Director of the Customs Bureau of Hiroshima and Chief Superintendent of the Moji and Osaka Custom Houses, 1916-1920, he was sent to France and Italy in 1922 to attend the Preparatory Committee of the International Customs Union. In May 1931, he became head of the Industrial Bureau of the Government of Formosa. He resigned from Government service in 1933 and practiced law. He is a Standing Auditor of the Reconversion Finance Bank, having served in this position since January 1947.

State Minister; Chairman, Local Government Finance Committee: IWAMOTO Nobuyuki

Nobuyuki Iwamoto, Minister of State and Chairman, Local Government Finance Committee, was born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1895. After graduating from the Shomo Juku, a private school, he became a farmer. Since 1929, Iwamoto has been a Prefectural Assemblyman four times and has headed the Prefectural Assembly of Kanagawa Prefecture on three occasions. In both 1946 and 1947, he was elected to the House of Representatives on the Liberal Party ticket. He is chairman of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee of the Political Affairs Research Department of the Democratic Liberal Party.

State Minister; Director-General, Reparations Board: INOUE Tomoharu

Tomoharu Inoue, Minister of State and Director-General, Reparations Board, was born in Kagoshima Prefecture in 1889. He graduated from Tokyo University in 1917. In 1930 he was elected to the House of Representatives and has been returned to the Diet five times since his initial election. He belonged to the defunct Seiyukai (Political Friends Society) from 1930 until it was dissolved in 1940. In 1946 he joined the Progressive Party and when this organization, together with other political elements, founded the Democratic Party, he transferred his membership to this newly established party. He was elected as an advisor to the Democratic Party as well as Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives in February 1947. After the April 1947 elections, Inoue was replaced in this position by Manitsu Tanaka. Inoue left the Democratic Party along with Kijuro Shidehara and joined the Democratic Liberal Party in 1948. He became an advisor in the latter upon entering the party. Inoue has been elected to the House of Representatives in both the elections of 1946 and 1947, from Kagoshima Prefecture.

State Minister; Chairman, Office for Allocation of Paper for Newsprint and Publications: MORI Kotaro

Kotaro Mori, Minister of State and Chairman, Office for Allocation of Paper for Newsprint and Publications, was born in Shiga Prefecture in 1889. He is a graduate of the Nagahama Agricultural School. During the period from 1931 until 1936, he was engaged in agriculture and fishing industries and subsequently became an outstanding leader in the agriculture and forestry industry in the prefecture. During this same period he served as member of the Shiga Prefectural Assembly. In March 1936, he was elected to the House of Representatives on the Seiyukai Party ticket. He was successfully elected to the House of Representatives again in both 1946 and 1947 on the Liberal Party ticket. He has been an advisor of the Shiga Prefectural Branch of the Democratic Liberal Party since December 1945. In August 1947 he was elected vice-chairman of the All-Japan Farmers Union when it was inaugurated by the Democratic Liberal Party.