

Japan's Surrender Press Conference Stamp

MSCNY ARTICLE No. 33

When Bro. Truman announced Japan's surrender on August 14, 1945, he held a press conference and photographs were taken. One of the photographs was used for a US postage stamp. From another photo taken of the same group, we are able to identify those with the President. Shown below are the stamp and a photograph "key." In addition to Bro. Truman, three other men are listed as Freemasons according to the Wikipedia "List

of Freemasons." They are: James F. Byrnes, Fred Vinson, and Tom C. Clark. Vinson (#11), however, is not shown on the stamp. Their lodges are not listed, but I believe the Wikipedia listing has Masonic sanction (created by a Freemason or Freemasons) and this stamp can therefore be used for Bros. Truman, Byrnes, and Clark in a Masonic collection. (USA #2981h)



Note: The absence of Fred Vinson (#11) on this stamp is the result of the camera position when the photo was taken. Vinson is directly behind Truman and cannot be seen.



President Harry S Truman (standing at desk) announces the surrender of Japan to the media. The individuals in the photograph are identified as follows (Masons underlined):

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Admiral William D. <u>Leahy</u>, Chief of Staff 2. <u>Secretary of State James F. Byrnes</u> 3. <u>President Truman</u> 4. Cordell <u>Hull</u>, Secretary of State under Franklin Roosevelt 5. Julius <u>Krug</u>, Chairman, War Production Board 6. Leo <u>Crowley</u>, Administrator, Foreign Economics 7. Major General Philip <u>Fleming</u>, Admin. Federal Works Agency 8. William <u>Davis</u>, Director – Economic Administration | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. John <u>Snyder</u>, Director, War Mobilization and Reconversion 10. Secretary of the Navy James <u>Forrestal</u> 11. <u>Secretary of the Treasury Fred Vinson</u> 12. <u>Attorney General Tom C. Clark</u> 13. Secretary of Labor Lewis <u>Schwellenbach</u> 14. John B. <u>Blandford</u>, Administrator, National Housing Agency 15. Postmaster General Robert E. <u>Hannegan</u> |
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Source: Harry S Truman Presidential Library and Museum