

JFB = JAMES F. BYRNES

Aboard the Augusta, the atomic bombs, the surrender
Journal entries

August 3, 1945

President, Leahy and JFB agreed Japan looking for peace. President afraid they will sue for peace through Russia instead of some country like Sweden.

JFB, Truman chide Leahy not to hold out news on the atomic bomb. Leahy still doubtful.

This the subject of much discussion aboard the Renown. As JFB was leaving, the King grabbed his arm and said: "Now if the Admiral here does not give you the right information, let me know and I will send out a ship for it."

JFB holds a press conference on Potsdam.

August 4, 1945

President and JFB discuss Drew Pearson's glorification of Morgenthau. JFB chided Vardeman on leak. JFB does not care about Pearson blaming him for Morgenthau's dismissal but is concerned about the leak. Someone revealed that the President aboard the ship going to Antwerp had declined to issue a dispatch that Morgenthau would be the US representative on the Breton Woods setup.

Truman told JFB not to pay attention to columnists.

HT: "They have said everything in the world about me, but they have not hurt me."

Truman then related the story on Morgenthau: Morgenthau came in, said that rumors that he would not stay as Secretary of Treasury were undermining his position and as he told the President, he was ready to resign. President told him he wanted him to stay until the next bond drive was over and possibly til the end of the war with Japan. Morgenthau said ok but wanted it in a letter. Truman got mad and would not write such a letter. Morgenthau insisted. Truman: "Well, I suggest you let me have your resignation." Morgenthau wrote it and it was quickly accepted. President wanted Morgenthau to stay until he returned from Europe. Apparently Roseman had cooked up plan to have Morgenthau appointed to Breton Woods after Morgenthau said he wanted to quit immediately.