

From: Moline, Ill.
Page: 1
Page: 2
Page: 3
DISPATCH

E. 29,136

APR 27 1961

Finger Pointing

Unsurprisingly, the debacle in Cuba set off a round of finger-pointing in Washington. Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall among others tried to protect the Kennedy Administration by pointing out that the Eisenhower Administration drafted the abortive invasion plan. The Republicans naturally reacted to this in anger. Almost everybody cast aspersions at the Central Intelligence Agency.

President Kennedy wisely called a halt to this quarrel by a statement unequivocally taking full responsibility for the events in Cuba, and in effect ordering his aides to quit trying

to pass the buck.

All this leaves us with an obvious fact: The Cuban invasion was a monumental shafu. It was poorly timed. It was undermanned and badly organized. It was apparently based on a grossly faulty assessment of its chances of success.

No doubt the mistakes can be traced to a number of individuals, a number of agencies, and in part back to the Eisenhower Administration. But as President Kennedy frankly says, it was his responsibility. He has his work cut out for him, to see that any future action toward Cuba doesn't leave us red-faced.