

CHARLESTON, W. VA.
MAIL

EVENING 52,554

APR 28 1961

There's No Use Asking; On The Disaster In Cuba No One In Authority Is Talking

There is no use going to Washington to find out what went wrong in Cuba and why. It is quite possible that Washington does not know. And in any case, whether it knows or not, Washington is not talking.

This gives the Washington press corps great pain and discomfort. It assumes, even when it knows better, that it is entitled to know all and print everything. But when it confronted every major official of the State Department this week in an off-the-record session designed to permit candor and freedom of expression, the corps proved no match for the Department's unified resistance. Here, as perhaps nowhere else, its defenses are perfect.

Each subordinate deferred to his superior when the question of Cuba arose and each superior, in turn, to his superior — right on up to the President of the United States. The President's posture was faultless and wholly commend-

able. He assumes for his administration the sole responsibility for the disaster, although, in fact, he is not wholly or even largely to blame. Behind him the solid phalanx is impregnable.

Gen. Maxwell Taylor will make the usual study. It will take more than the usual amount of time. And when, if ever, it is released for popular consumption, the grim incident will be confined to history.

In the meantime it is little more than a guess that before too long other uses will be found for Allen Dulles as head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The sententious Adolf Berle, Jr., head of the Task Force for Latin America, will retire from public life, his reputation as a seer somewhat damaged.

Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., who somehow qualified as an expert on Latin America and made, perhaps, more history there than he intended, will return to Harvard to resume the writing of it.