

Letter

Jan 27/1964
Shared Responsibility

Please allow a Danish visitor to enter a brief comment on the viewpoint on responsibility expressed by William S. White (on Jan. 28). Mr. White dismissed the effort undertaken by 25 Senators to prolong the pause in the bombing of North Vietnam by saying that the responsibility is not theirs and that the only men who "must and will make the great decision" are President Johnson, Dean Rusk and Robert McNamara.

I would like to point to the grave danger in the belief that you can pass on your responsibility to a few leaders. The article brings to mind the country that started the Second World War. You will remember how, afterward, when the bill was presented, everybody stood up and testified: "I was not responsible."

Unlike Nazi Germany, the United States is a democracy and, as vigorously advocated by Admiral Rickover, "in a democracy all citizens are rulers." May I, therefore, remind those citizens of the world's greatest democracy who may now be prepared to follow Senator Stennis on his course toward the nuclear war: "You are all responsible. There will be no excuse when, afterward, the bill is presented."
VAGN MEJDAHL.

Oxon Hill.