

We would like to call your attention to what appears to be ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> error on a postage stamp to be issued by your Department on December 15, 1960, as reported in the New York Times last week. The stamp is to commemorate "Echo I, the world's first communications satellite," which was placed in orbit on August 12, 1960.

As documented by the inclusions to this letter, the world's first communications satellite was not Echo I, but the Project Score Satellite (1958 Zeta), which was developed by the Army Signal Corps and <sup>was</sup> successfully launched into orbit on December 18, 1958. You may recall that the Project Score Satellite broadcast President Eisenhower's Christmas greetings to the world on its first orbit, and later relayed a large volume of voice and teletypewriter message traffic between widely separated ground stations. Though placed in ~~orbit~~ orbit more than a year and a half ~~after~~ before Echo I, the Score satellite was ~~nonetheless~~ nonetheless a more complicated satellite electronically. Echo I carried only two small ~~beacon~~ beacon transmitters used to locate the sphere in space. The sphere acted as a radio mirror to reflect messages back down to earth. Score, on the other hand carried in addition to the beacon transmitters, a sensitive radio receiver to pick up messages beamed to it from the ground, a tape recorder on which the messages could be stored, and a 4-watt transmitter through which the messages could be played back to a second ground station hundreds or thousands of miles away.

2--

Voice and teletypewriter messages were relayed over continental distances for several weeks via Score continuously/ from the day it was launched until the satellite ~~burned up and plunged to earth~~ burned up and plunged to earth.

In view of the above facts, we recommend that the words "world's first communications satellite" be omitted from the stamp, or that the Project Score Satellite be substituted for Echo I.