



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C. 20546

APR 6 1964

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

General Omar N. Bradley
Chairman of the Board
Bulova Watch Company, Inc.
630 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear General Bradley:

I note on my "satellite-calendar" that the third anniversary of the Explorer XI "switch-over" of experiments is coming up on May 26. This event, as I recall, was the first successful operation of an accurate, self-contained time delay switching function within an orbiting satellite.

This is an excellent example of the strong support provided by American industry in the space program, for it was the electronic timer developed and manufactured by your company that made this possible. It is also an outstanding example of technological innovation useful in space, which has parallel value for consumer use here on earth, as well, in the form of the timepiece which you call Accutron.

The role of the timer in satellites is important, as we have discussed before, because it limits the life of radio transmissions after a period of time in which useful information has been gleaned. Unless those radio broadcasts are shut off, some satellites could go on broadcasting for many years, cluttering up the air waves with useless information and "hogging" a radio band that could have been used by another, newer satellite.

Meanwhile, I note that your timers have been included as components of various satellite projects--including Tiros, Telstar, and Syncom--and I trust that they will continue to perform their appointed tasks.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Webb
Administrator