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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

February 16, 1994

Dr. Trudy Peterson
Acting National Archivist
8th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Peterson,

As a result of a friend's interest, I am inquiring about the "Titles of Nobility" amendment enumerated as Article XIII in the Constitution. The earlier publication and then disappearance of this amendment raises some interesting questions.

It has been brought to my attention that a new report from the Civil Reference Branch claims the amendment wasn't ratified because of the ex post facto addition of four new states, even though all four of these states published this amendment as a part of the Constitution in their official publications at the time. It appears that this amendment was ratified and widely accepted.

It is my understanding that Gary L. Brooks, Chief of the legal services staff, has been assigned the responsibility for overseeing this matter for the National Archives. I would appreciate knowing the National Archives' position on the ratification of this amendment.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

LS: jy

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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