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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

June 11, 1962

Mr. Daryl Arden Ferguson
1225 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The possibility of towing the USS SOUTH DAKOTA from Philadelphia has been discussed among State officials. However, there are a number of serious problems involved.

Included among them is the considerable cost which would be entailed in the shipping of that distance and the fact that navigation extends only as far up the Missouri River as Sioux City.

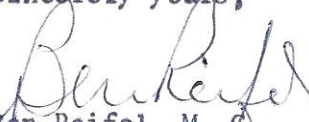
As such, the battlegon might do more for Iowa and Nebraska as a tourist attraction than it would for South Dakota.

Studies are under way to extend navigation to Yankton and possibly later around the Missouri River dams upstream. However, the decommissioning of this ship will not wait for the years of study and construction that these projects entail.

I certainly think your idea is a good one and share your wish that the ship would be retained as a permanent memorial to the valor of those not only who served on the USS SOUTH DAKOTA but also of those who first populated our great State.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Ben Reifel, M. C.

BR:dk