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# Gingrich pushes for another term

**■ SPEAKER:** *Republicans have been assured by Gingrich that no more ethics violations will be disclosed*

By David Espo  
*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Shrugging off a fellow Republican's call to surrender power, on Monday Newt Gingrich lobbied the House GOP rank-and-file in private for a new term as speaker despite admitted ethics violations.

One lawmaker said Gingrich assured Republicans at a party caucus that there were no further embarrassing disclosures to come out in his case. Others said the Georgian accused Democrats of using the ethics committee for political mischief.

"It's not about Newt Gingrich," Rep. Jim Ramstad of Minnesota quoted the speaker as saying. "It's about the ethics process being used to gain control to elect a De-



GINGRICH

mocratic speaker."

Gingrich predicted before the closed-door session that he would prevail when the 105th Congress convenes today, and

thus become the first GOP speaker to win consecutive terms in 68 years. There was evidence to support that: Rep. Marge Roukema of New Jersey, publicly uncommitted at mid-afternoon, said later through an aide that she would vote for the Georgian.

But even before he stepped before fellow Republicans, a fresh sign of his political vulnerability appeared. In a written statement, 11-term Iowa Republican Jim Leach said Gingrich was "ethically damaged."

"For the country's sake," he said, Gingrich should step down and another GOP leader should

be selected in his place.

Leach and Rep. Michael Forbes of New York, another opponent, both spoke during the caucus, according to one lawmaker who emerged while the session was still in progress. Rep. Tom Campbell of California also announced his intention to deny Gingrich his vote, the lawmaker added.

The political drama surrounding Gingrich has dominated the run-up to today's opening of the 105th Congress. Election of a speaker is customarily a cut-and-dried process, with the majority party ensuring that its candidate prevails.

With Republicans holding a 227-207 majority with one independent, though, Gingrich has relatively little margin for error. As a result, he has been struggling to hold wavering GOP lawmakers in line since his admission two weeks ago that he violated House rules.

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