

Gingrich Finds Bilingual Moral In Canada's Secession Ballot

Reuter

ATLANTA, Oct. 30—House Speaker Newt Gingrich today described Quebec's vote on independence from Canada as a "warning signal" to the United States on the dangers of bilingualism.

Gingrich used the Quebec referendum to repeat his call for Congress to enshrine English as the only official U.S. language—despite growing numbers of people who speak Spanish or Asian languages at home.

"If we don't insist on renewing our civilization, starting with insisting on English as a common language, we are just going

to devour this country. Watch the Canadian results today," Gingrich said in a speech to a business forum.

The Quebec referendum is "a serious warning to all Americans that allowing bilingualism to continue to grow is very dangerous and that we should insist on English as a common language," Gingrich later told reporters.

Gingrich did not single out any rivals to English in the United States. But conservative politicians in the past have expressed alarm at the growth of Spanish, particularly in states such as California, Texas and Florida.