

# Gingrich Ethics Probe Reaches RNC

## *Subpoena Seeking Records Is Sent to GOP Chairman Barbour*

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The Republican National Committee is searching its records for documents related to the college course House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) taught, but a spokesman said officials do not expect to find much.

RNC Chairman Haley Barbour was included in the latest round of subpoenas issued by the House ethics committee's outside counsel, James M. Cole.

Individuals who worked on the course and at least one of the speaker's congressional staff members also received subpoenas, according to congressional sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The subpoenas were sent last week.

Barbour "did get a subpoena from the ethics committee requesting any records the RNC may have concerning the speaker's course," Barbour's spokesman, Edward Gillespie, said. "We are responding to that fully. We will notify them as soon as we've checked out all the documents."

Asked whether the document search has turned up anything, Gillespie said, "No one here thinks that anything is going to turn up. We don't have anything relevant to the course. But we're checking all documents to be sure."

A July 7, 1993, "summary report" by course officials said, "Barbour letter has dropped to all state chairmen."

Other than that sentence, there is no other known connection between Barbour and Gingrich's course, "Renewing American Civilization."

Cole is investigating whether Gingrich's activities in the course violated the Internal Revenue Service code or whether any tax-exempt foundation violated its exempt status with respect to the course with Gingrich's knowledge.

The course was financed by donors who gave money to two tax-exempt foundations, making the contributions deductible on their federal income tax returns.