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Gingrich Puts Some English On His Spin

Associated Press

As part of his call to revitalize the nation, House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) said yesterday that English must be "our common language."

Gingrich also said the United States must lead in world affairs and renew itself economically and culturally.

"We're the only country complicated enough, sophisticated enough, big enough to lead the human race," he said. "Every time we start to pull out, we leave behind a dark and bloody conflict. Just look at Bosnia, look at Chechnya, look at Rwanda.

"Whether we want to [be] or not, we're tied to the world," he said.

But before the nation leads the world, Americans must be better prepared to compete in the world market, get in step with the information age, reform government, fight crime and "reassert American civilization," he said.

"English has to be our common language; otherwise we're not going to have a civilization," Gingrich said.

Gingrich told a group of 120 Iowa business leaders that the United States has indulged in "a couple of decades of irresponsibility."

"The age of juvenile behavior is over," he said.

The new "age of responsibility" means parents must take more responsibility for children's education and that the work ethic must be reestablished and government spending be reformed, he said.