

Dodd, Gingrich face off on Iraq

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Sen. Chris Dodd and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich Sunday debated whether there should be a firm timetable for pulling U.S. troops out of Iraq.

Dodd, D-Conn., supported a withdrawal deadline in an Iraq funding bill during the 25-minute face-off on NBC's "Face the Nation," saying he thinks the United States is less secure because of the Iraq War.

"I think most would agree today that we're more isolated today," Dodd said. "Our moral standing in the world has suffered terribly, in my view, over the last number of years as a result of our involvement in Iraq."

Gingrich, who said he would decide on entering the 2008 presidential race by October, predictably disagree. The Georgia Republican said a pullout deadline would demoralize U.S. military forces and "send a signal to our enemies to wait patiently and destroy the country as soon as we leave."

"I mean if we have to set a deadline, let's set it for next Tuesday," Gingrich said. "Let's get out of there, because I think the idea that we're going to set a magic moment a year from now or 11 months from now, or 10 months from now, basically says we are prepared to accept defeat."

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