

Clinton's prosecutors present closing arguments

WASHINGTON (AP) — House prosecutors argued their last stand against President Clinton in his impeachment trial Monday in closing arguments to senators ready by all accounts to return verdicts of not guilty by the week's end. Clinton's lawyer dismissed their case as retribution "to achieve partisan ends."

"The truth is still the truth and a lie is still a lie, and the rule of law

should apply to everyone," Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said in a final plea for guilty votes on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

"Senators, don't be fooled by the president's excuses and spin control," he said.

Countering for the president, White House Counsel Charles F.C. Ruff launched a sharp attack on the

Republican prosecutors themselves. They are, he said, "more focused on retribution, more designed to achieve partisan ends, more uncaring about the future we face together."

A two-thirds majority is required to find Clinton guilty and automatically remove him from office.

Even Republicans concede that will not happen, and some GOP senators have suggested that — particu-

larly on the perjury charge — it is possible a majority of the Senate might vote to acquit.

The charges stem from Clinton's sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky and his efforts to conceal it.

The final presentations — three hours to each side in the historic trial — marked the end of the argument phase in the four-week trial.

AIDS vaccine test under

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first test of a human AIDS vaccine in Africa has begun in Uganda, says the U.S. National Institutes of Health, which is funding the study.

Several attempts at AIDS vaccines have been tested in various countries, particularly the United States, where the most advanced study of another possible vaccine

candidate is under way. But Monday's announcement was pegged as an important step toward developing a vaccine that would protect the most vulnerable. The Uganda study vaccine was made by Merieux Connaught and contains a canarypox virus that carries HIV genes.

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