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Traficant guilty of taking bribes

Gephardt calls for congressman's resignation

By PAUL SINGER
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Rep. James A. Traficant Jr. was convicted Thursday of taking bribes and kickbacks from businessmen and his own staff after a raucous trial in which the fiery congressman insisted on serving as his own lawyer.

The nine-term Democrat from Youngstown was found guilty of all 10 federal charges he faced, including racketeering, bribery and fraud. The jury also ordered him to forfeit \$96,000 in ill-gotten gains.

He said he would not resign, despite a call by House Democratic Leader Richard A. Gephardt for him to do so. "I still have some rights as an American," Traficant said. "I've never been a quitter. I'm not going to quit now."

Sentencing was set for June 27.

Traficant faces up to 63 years in prison, though he would probably receive a much shorter term under federal guidelines.

"I'm not afraid of going to jail," Traficant said while leaving the courthouse.

Please see TRAFICANT/4A

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REP. JAMES TRAFICANT Jr. talks with reporters as he leaves federal court in Cleveland on Thursday. He was found guilty of 10 federal charges.

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