

December 20, 1996, FRIDAY, Late Sports Final Edition

**Daley turns up the heat on Edgar;**

**Governor hits city, Sun-Times**

By Fran Spielman and Dave McKinney

Staff reporters

SPRINGFIELD-Mayor Daley exhorted Gov. Edgar on Thursday to quit looking for excuses to walk away from a proposed Meigs Field compromise after the governor blasted City Hall and the Chicago Sun-Times for near-''vicious" leaks.

"I could go back to negotiations (with Edgar) on the circulator, Lake Calumet (Airport) and many other issues and . . . you would basically be in the Chicago River like I was a couple of years ago plugging all the leaks," the mayor said.

"I get a lot of headlines I don't like. You roll with the punches. . . . You have to have thick skin in public life," Daley said. "This is a good compromise (offer) for all those who want to get involved in compromise. . . . If they want to walk away, so be it."

Edgar's press secretary, Mike Lawrence, replied, "It's always refreshing to hear the mayor counsel rhetorical restraint, but he wasn't the one falsely accused of breaking his word."

The Sun-Times reported earlier this week that negotiators for the city and state were working on the framework for a political compromise that included Edgar's McDome, Daley's Northerly Island Park and stalled $ 610 million bond issues for new prisons and other capital projects.

What irked the governor was not only the leak about the secret talks but also the accusation from unidentified mayoral advisers that Edgar had "double-crossed" City Hall by signing the Meigs takeover bill.

On Thursday, Edgar called a news conference in Springfield to confront City Hall and the newspaper. He said a Meigs compromise would be far more difficult to achieve in the wake of this week's developments.

"While one person was coming to talk to us, we thought in good faith, to see if there was a compromise, another person from the mayor's staff was basically attacking me and making claims that just weren't true. There was no deal. There was no agreement on (not) signing the bill. The nature of that story, I felt, was almost what I would term as vicious. That does not bode well in our discussions or any discussion," he said.

Under apparent pressure not to deal away a lakefront airport, the governor also reaffirmed his support for Meigs Field.

"My position is that Meigs should stay open. It's important. I don't know at this point of any reason I would change that position. Now, I never say 'never' to anything," Edgar said.

Earlier this week, Daley issued a conciliatory statement absolving Edgar of a double-cross in signing the Meigs takeover bill. On Thursday, he took a different tack, confirming he is upset about the bill signing, and defending the mayoral aides who made the comments and the media's right to report it.

The mayor refused to reveal specifics of his compromise offer.

"I cannot comment (on) what's on the table because I thought things were on the table and I find out there's no table. The table has disappeared very rapidly," he said.