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**Meigs takeover flies through Senate**

By Dave McKinney and Fran Spielman

Staff reporters

SPRINGFIELD-The Illinois Senate on Wednesday completed the legislative coup authorizing a state takeover of Meigs Field in a move denounced by Mayor Daley as a "personal fight" that Gov. Edgar would live to regret.

"You get mad on issues. You get mad at some things that may take place. But when you bring that personal disagreement into a public policy issue, you're going to regret it as a public official," the mayor said.

The Senate's 32-27 vote now sends the legislation to Edgar, who on Wednesday scolded Daley and his allies for a litany of "silly statements" that have twisted the state's intentions for Meigs.

Only two Republican senators, Robert Raica and Walter Dudycz, both of Chicago, voted against the takeover. Sen. Rickey Hendon, also of Chicago, was the only Democrat to vote for it.

During a noisy, hourlong debate, Senate Democrats questioned why the Legislature was being thrust into an argument between "two spoiled little brats" and said there hasn't been a more blatant shot at local control in more than 200 years of American history.

"We fought a revolution over this. King George would just go around taking land, and we said, 'You can't do that, king.' So what does King Edgar do? He goes and gets Gen. Cornwallis and the redcoats to go and take our land," said Sen. Robert Molaro (D-Chicago).

"Even the Dutch, when they took Manhattan, gave the poor Native Americans $ 24 worth of trinkets."

Senate President James "Pate" Philip (R-Wood Dale), in repeating many of Edgar's arguments against Meigs' closure, pointed to a 1990 city-state agreement for grant money for Meigs in which Daley pledged to keep the lakefront airport open for 20 more years.

"When I sign an agreement, I stick with it whether I like it or not. It appears the city doesn't feel that way," Philip said sarcastically.

At an afternoon news conference, Edgar declined to say when he would sign the Meigs legislation, though his move is widely anticipated before the Illinois Appellate Court might lift an injunction preventing demolition of Meigs later this month.

Daley accused Republican legislative leaders of ramming the takeover bill through without testimony, but he was equally cagey when asked about a possible legal challenge.

And he wouldn't say whether he would send in the bulldozers if a court order barring construction of his planned $ 27.2 million park is lifted.

"I'm not going to answer that. I'm not going to be a witness on behalf of the state. I describe it as a 15-round title bout. In the first three rounds, we were very successful. The fourth round was in the House. . . . We have a long way to go. There are ups and downs in this. . . . It isn't over today. It isn't over tomorrow," Daley said.

Making a reference to his press secretary, Edgar jabbed back at Daley for interpreting the Meigs legislation as a blank check that would enable the state to sweep in and condemn any high-rises or museums in the air space of landing aircraft.

"The mayor's made a lot of silly statements in the last few days. Mike Lawrence is a busy person, and I feel badly he has to spend all of this time reacting to all of those silly suggestions," Edgar said in an outburst.

If the Meigs takeover bill was rammed through in hopes of forcing Daley to the bargaining table, it wasn't working Wednesday.

Flanked by environmentalists, open-lands advocates and a host of elected officials, Daley once again dug in his heels and ruled out a compromise on an issue that threatens to sour the legislative climate on a host of other issues critical to Chicago.

The Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago earlier encouraged a compromise and on Wednesday issued a press release promising a proposal to serve as a "framework" for negotiations. Officials refused to be specific about the suggestions.