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POLITICS

Illinois Political Standstill Could Stall Federal Funds

President-elect Barack Obama met with Congressional leaders today about his economic recovery plan.

Obama says the plan would help states rebuild roads, bridges and schools.

But an Illinois legislative paralysis since Governor Rod Blagojevich's arrest last month could jeopardize the state's share.

That's according to University of Illinois at Springfield political scientist Kent Redfield.

REDFIELD: We could have a huge mess in terms of spending the money. If it comes here for infrastructure projects and the governor is still governor and we've got gridlock in the legislature, it might be difficult to get the spending done.

Congressional Democrats are trying to pass the economic plan within weeks.

A federal judge in Blagojevich's case today gave prosecutors until April 7 to seek an indictment.