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DOLE LAWSUIT HEARING SET FOR DECEMBER 29, RULING ON DECEMBER 30.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole's lawsuit against President Carter will be heard by U.S. District Court Judge Earl O'Connor on December 29, and the ruling rendered on December 30. Although O'Connor had originally promised to rule on the case in the first week of January, a request by the State Department for an earlier ruling was agreed to by the judge. "This has made it more difficult for us to gather the affidavits and necessary documents in time to prepare a thorough brief," Dole said.

"I find this decision by the present Administration to give the Crown of St. Stephens over to the Communist Government of Hungary to be an empty and meaningless gesture. In the short time that President Carter has been in office, he has seen fit to reverse the judgment of 6 former U.S. Presidents, starting with President Truman on this complex foreign policy issue".

The Senator added further that he was extremely disturbed by the way in which the whole question has been handled. "First, the President promised to consult with the organizations involved in this matter. He didn't. Then the State Department denied that any decision had been reached when inquiries began to come in from Congressional leaders. And now the White House officials indicate that all the arrangements have already been made for the ceremonial handing over of the Crown. But just because the scaffolding has been erected, there's no need to go through with the execution", Dole concluded.