

HUMAN RIGHTS

Reporter called 'big liar, idiot' by landlord

Elijah Elieff says he never told Greg Van Moorsel his tenants acted like 'pigs out of the jungle.' AUG 31 1993

London Free Press reporter Greg Van Moorsel was described Monday as an idiot, liar and killer involved in a plot to discredit landlord Elijah Elieff.

Elieff made the comments during testy exchanges at a provincial inquiry on allegations of racism against the controversial owner of apartments on Cheyenne Avenue.

CLOSED MEETING: After a series of often bitter tirades, Ajit John, chairperson of the Ontario Human Rights Commission hearing, closed the meeting in an attempt to cool heads.

Van Moorsel, who had been ordered to produce his notes, defended his reports in The Free Press in November, 1989, that quoted Elieff saying Cambodian and Vietnamese tenants acted like pigs out of the jungle.

In sharp exchanges with Robert Metz, the landlord's representative, Van Moorsel said he wasn't misinterpreting what Elieff said or was biased against him.

MORON: "You would have to be a moron," not to link Elieff's comments about pigs and jungle with his tenants, Van Moorsel said.

Van Moorsel said he asked Elieff several times who he meant when he referred to "they" being like pigs. He said the landlord said he was talking about his Asian tenants.

Elieff, who denies making the comments, angrily interrupted Van Moorsel's testimony several times, saying the reporter was an "idiot", "lying through his teeth," a "big liar" and among a group of "killers" who drove him to financial ruin.

Elieff is scheduled to be cross-examined by commission lawyer, Geri Sanson, when the hearing resumes today. Sanson has said she intends to produce video evidence to support the racism charges against Elieff.