

# Local landlord lathered by bathtub color query

The Cheyenne Avenue apartment owner finally admitted he had one white bathtub and one pink one.

Landlord Elijah Elieff saw red when he was asked the color of his bathtub on Tuesday.

His often heated responses to questions escalated during a provincial inquiry into allegations of racism against Elieff, the owner of two apartment buildings on Cheyenne Avenue in east London.

"That's none of your business. I'm not going to tell," he said to Geri Sanson, the Ontario Human Rights Commission lawyer at the commission hearing in London.

In a series of exchanges, Elieff told Ajit John, hearing chairperson, "she's not going to dig into my privacy. Is that clear?"

It was only after two adjournments, and a warning from John that he would discount all Elieff's testimony unless the landlord an-

squared the question, that Elieff relented.

He has one white bathtub and one pink bathtub, Elieff said.

Sanson showed the landlord a \$1,600 receipt for a pink bathtub filed with the commission as part of Elieff's losses on his Cheyenne apartments. There were, she said, no pink bathtubs in the apartments.

**SIMPLE ERROR:** Elieff and his representative, Robert Metz, said it was a simple error to misplace the receipt in attempts to file financial records ordered by John.

London Free Press reporter Greg Van Moorsel quoted Elieff in a series of published articles in November, 1989, as describing his Cambodian and Vietnamese tenants as acting like pigs out of the jungle. Elieff denies making such comments.

Testimony is expected to be completed at the 10th day of the hearing today. Two days of legal arguments are scheduled for late September and a ruling announced within 30 days. Fourteen witnesses have testified.