

## HUMAN RIGHTS



Sam McLeod/The London Free Press

Freedom party of Ontario leader Robert Metz, left, listens to London landlord Elijah Elieff during a break at an Ontario Human Rights Commission board of inquiry Tuesday. Elieff's alleged treatment of tenants at 95 and 105 Cheyenne Ave. is the reason for the hearing.

# Smear campaign alleged against London landlord

One long-time resident of a building owned by Elijah Elieff says the landlord 'really extended himself to understand' Asian tenants.

By Hank Daniszewski  
The London Free Press

The Freedom party of Ontario jumped to the defence of London landlord Elijah Elieff Tuesday.

An Ontario Human Rights Commission board of inquiry resumed hearings into charges Elieff discriminated against his Asian tenants at 95 and 105 Cheyenne Ave., but the hearings quickly bogged down in a series of procedural arguments and accusations that evidence was being leaked outside the hearing room.

Until now, Elieff has presented his own case, but Freedom party leader Robert Metz became Elieff's official spokesperson

### THE COMPLAINT

□ Chippeng Hom alleges her right to equal treatment for accommodation and freedom from harassment has been infringed by Elijah Elieff's comments so that her living conditions were "poisoned by discrimination."

Hom, who says she can't afford to move out of the building, says she continues to suffer in the conditions that Elieff justifies with his "stereotypical assumptions" that Cambodians like to live like pigs and like cockroaches.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission launched its investigation of Hom's complaint in April, 1990. A provincial board of inquiry began hearing the complaint in November, 1992.

Tuesday to argue that Elieff was the target of an organized smear campaign.

Two members of the Freedom party were called to the stand to deny accusations that they were sneaking out of the meeting room to tell Elieff about testimony from which he was excluded.

**SUPPORTIVE:** The board heard testimony from tenant Mary Mowat, despite objections from commission counsel Geri Sanson, who argued that Elieff had exhausted his list of witnesses. Mowat, who has lived in 95 Cheyenne Ave. since 1985, supported earlier testimony Elieff

did his best to clean up the property, repair vandalism and welcome his Asian tenants.

"Elijah really extended himself to understand these people," she said.

But under cross-examination, Mowat said she told Eagle to "go to the devil" because she was upset by her efforts to organize the tenants.

She also admitted to distributing a note to tenants in December, urging them not to pay their rents into a fund to cover utility bills Elieff has not paid.

The hearings are scheduled to continue today.