

# Chalkyitsik Chief Thomas Hits Closure Of Village Post Office, Asks Justice

By PAUL BEN THOMAS

Chief of Chalkyitsik

The people of Chalkyitsik suffered a great injustice. In November of 1964, a post office was finally opened in the village of Chalkyitsik. At that time, one of our men was awarded the contract for handling the post office. Unfortunately, he proved to be unsatisfactory.

A postal inspector was sent to investigate our post office. He arrived at a most unopportune time when many of the villagers were away, including the village chief.

The inspector asked only two individuals questions concerning both the post office and our former postmaster. Naturally, these individuals truthfully replied that they knew little or nothing about the workings of the post office.

The inspector then left for Fort Yukon where he ordered Robert Mott, postmaster of Fort Yukon, to come to Chalkyitsik and close our post office.

## People Upset

The people of Chalkyitsik are most upset at the closing of their post office. Since many depend upon mail order purchasing, a post office is a necessity. C.O.D. orders now must go to Fort Yukon 90 miles away or a two-day boat trip. I am sure that you will agree that such an arrangement is most unsatisfactory.

The people of Chalkyitsik do not understand why an entire village must suffer for the actions of one individual over whom they had no control. It seems quite unjust that 90 villagers must be deprived of their post office merely at the whim of one inspector. Surely this situation must be remedied.

A second difficulty, which is a matter of concern to the entire village, is the fact that previously, all mail was routed through the post office in Fort Yukon. The people of Chalkyitsik desire a post office which is separate from that in any other location. The people of our village do not understand why they do not possess an equal status to that of other villages.

The people of Chalkyitsik demand justice. The people of Chalkyitsik demand that their post office be reopened and reopened as soon as possible. The people of Chalkyitsik demand that when their post office is reopened, it will be entirely independent.

The people of Chalkyitsik would appreciate all that you could do in helping them attain their demands for justice.