

# Whew, What a year!

Well, it's been quite a year down there in the state house.

Lots of records have been set by the state Legislature for doing lots of interesting things. Like holding the state's longest legislative session which, at 164 days as of Wednesday, was a record.

There was also the matter of the cost of this mind-boggling record-breaking session - \$40,000 per day just to keep our legislators debating, bickering, and considering how to spend another record breaker - some \$5.7 Billion in state money.

That in itself is something to take the breath away and is even more astounding when you consider that law makers got requests for projects totalling \$39 billion. But that amount was "whittled" back to a mere spending package of less than \$2 billion for statewide programs.

Then there is the little matter of the House revolt and the sub-revolt and apparent destruction of the Democratic party. The Democrats have been in the cat bird's seat this session until they were unable to get the business of the house done and others took over.

There is a funny thing about these "records" that have been set by the Legislature. They all relate to money. The basic problem in Juneau that led to the long session was haggling over where to spend the state's big fat purse. It didn't even cross any minds to save some of that oil revenue.

The haggling over the spending led to the deadlock in the house and the revolt of the Democrats. Other matters, of course, entered into the big blow-up but dollars and cents was at the heart of it.

Much has been said about money and what it does. Money makes the world go around.

The love of money is the root of all evil.

Well it may or may not make the world go around and it may or may not encourage evil but one thing is sure with money and the state Legislature this year. It sure made things long and interesting.