

Examine school closely

There are lots of bad and very few good things that can be said about the banana republic rebellion that took place in the state legislature during the weekend.

That rebellion began Friday when dissident Democrats, angered because of House leaders' apparent inability to get the house business done, took control of the Legislature.

But, as anyone who has seen the newspaper or television can attest, that wrestling of power was done in a manner that one wouldn't brag about.

In a move that already is being challenged in court, Democrats snuck into the house chamber and voted to oust House Speaker Jim Duncan and replace him with Oral Freeman of Ketchikan. Outraged shouts of protest from other legislators who objected to not being notified of the call of the house were visible on every television network in the state and the scene was not pretty.

In the end, the usurpers were unable to hold together their fragile alliance and a new coalition, made up of five Bush Democrats, some Republicans and Libertarians, organized and elected Joe Hays of Anchorage as speaker.

In return for lending their support to this mix-mash coalition, Bush representatives elicited some payment in the form of positions on powerful house committees and a safe passage for subsistence for another year.

And that, speaking for residents of the Bush areas, is the good that has come from this whole debacle.

With four of eight House finance committee members coming from the rural areas, perhaps that area will be looked at with more consideration when appropriations are discussed.

The Bush also received the promise that no House leader would sponsor an amendment to the subsistence law or try to kill that law outright as had been proposed.

And that is doubly good for residents of the rural areas.

As Legislative sessions go, this has been fairly interesting. It's nice that some good of it came for the little guy.