

Schools' fuel-saving plan hampered by law: Berner

By Gary Benson
Of The Courier

The Champaign School District will make no major program changes to conserve energy unless officials receive orders to do so from the office of the state superintendent of public instruction.

Supt. of Schools Marshall Berner told the school board at a meeting Monday night that there is "no legal way" to make school-year calendar changes or to open schools on Saturday in the spring without changes first being made in state law.

Calendar changes and Saturday classes in the spring, with attendant fewer class days per week during the winter, are among the recommendations that have been made regarding ways the schools might save fuel.

In a report to the board on energy conservation, district

business manager George Hankinson said the district would concentrate on several conservation programs "already in the works."

These include a 60 per cent reduction in the mileage traveled for field trips and implementation of the district's "Power Off, Please" program.

"Power Off, Please" includes putting stickers with that message over every light switch in the district's schools.

Also, Berner told the board about his previously announced decision to lower classroom temperatures to 68 degrees and gymnasium temperature to 65.

The board also voted to instruct the school district's attorney to contact about 720 parents of children in the district who have not paid their book rental fees for this year.

The families are those which have been deemed financially

able to pay. The total owed by the 270 pupils is more than \$4,000.

Urbana school rooms ordered cooled down

Urbana school officials were ordered today to cool down their rooms during the energy shortage.

A directive sent to all school principals today from Superintendent of Schools Eugene Howard ordered them to:

- Lower room temperatures to 68 degrees during the school day.
- Set thermostats at 63 degrees for rooms when there are no evening activities.
- Set thermostats at 60 degrees for rooms in which there are no weekend activities.
- Turn off all lights in rooms not being used.
- Re-evaluate school security lights for possible reduction in use of electricity.

ard seats likely

to muster full slates

J. ferty, 6th District Republican, who is a former mayor of Champaign.

Thirteen incumbents have fil-

Dick Babcock, 9th.

Other Democrats are: Linda Cross and Ernest J. Walker, 5th; James Mumm and Ruth

open.

The primary date for the board has been set for Feb. 12, but a bill is being consider-