

# Denial by county on unpaid bill

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BERKSHIRE County Council on Tuesday denied that it did not have enough money to meet electricity bills at a school, suggested in remarks attributed to the head of the school in the *Daily Telegraph*.

The head of the Downs School, Compton, was reported as saying that an Electricity Board worker arrived at his school last week to cut off the supply, and that it was only after a heated argument over the telephone that the treasurer's department agreed to pay the bill.

The county treasurer, Mr. Michael Beasley said "The circumstances as set out in the *Daily Telegraph* report are wrong. The school secretary told us that the electricity bills were received at the school in the third week of the school holiday. They were not sent on to my department until later and we received them on September 10 and 11.

"We send the Electricity Board a cheque each week which incorporates all the individual accounts received for county council establishments during the previous week. These bills from the Downs School arrived just too late to pay in the same week and were processed the following week, being paid by cheque on September 24.

"A fitter arrived at the school on October 2 to disconnect the supply. The school secretary telephoned my department and was told the bill had already been paid, whereupon the fitter left without disconnecting the supply.

"There was no argument whatsoever; so far as we were concerned that was the end of the matter. The county council is perfectly well able to pay all its bills and does in fact do so promptly."

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