

# School Wins Approval of Full-Time Press Officer

By JERRY REYNOLDS  
Herald Staff Writer  
Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, asked for—and got—authorization to hire a full-time "community information officer" for the Torrance school district last week. The decision, however, left the Board of Education sharply divided.

warned, "If I ever get a third vote, this man had better look for another job." Lynn added he would "encourage a taxpayer's suit to see if this is a valid expenditure of funds."  
Lynn has consistently opposed the hiring of what he calls a "press agent" on a full-time basis. He was joined this week by Dr. Kurt Shery, Board members Albert Charles, William Hanson, and Mrs. Ken-

neth E. Watts cast the affirmative votes.  
DR. HULL cited the duties of the information officer for the board and added, "I could keep three men busy." He also said the present arrangement, a half-time man for the job, "is just what we can get by with."  
Mrs. Watts, using something of an understatement, described the issue as "a tempest

in a teapot," but added, "it's obvious we need someone." She was joined by Charles, who declared there was a real need to improve the image of public education. "This is a full-time job," he declared, and then argued it was "not breaking faith with the taxpayers."  
Lynn, who has argued the initial costs will gradually increase, told the board, "The

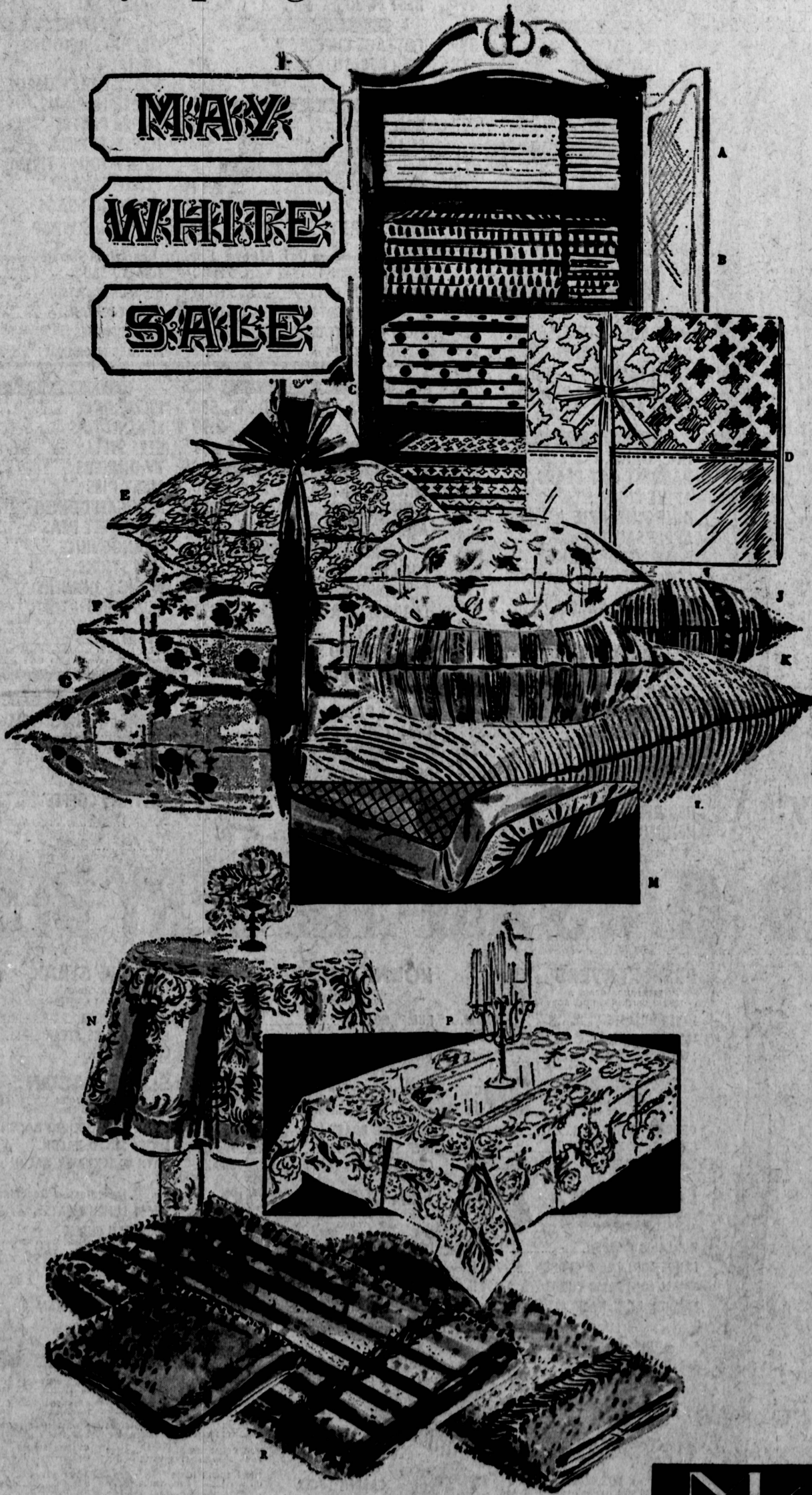
public did not vote an override tax to hire a press man." He also said the district has 30,000 press agents.  
SEVERAL PERSONS in the audience supported Lynn's viewpoint. Mrs. Gordon Campbell told the trustees, "I can't go back and say this (the information officer) is what we worked for." Other people backed up Dr. Hull in the need

for a public relations man for the district.  
Most of the argument centered on the cost to the district of a full-time man. Dr. Hull said a starting salary would be near \$6,000 a year. Someone—with a teaching certificate—will also have to be hired to coordinate the work experience program which Lysie Albro, the present information

officer, also handles. Lynn suggested the ultimate cost to the district might approach \$12,000.  
Dr. Kurt Shery said he felt publicity coming from such an employe would mean "managed news," and then added, "I don't feel we can spend the money for a public relations man on full-time. Part-time is something else."  
The vote, which followed

about 40 minutes of heated discussion, was 3-2 in favor of the motion to employ a full-time man.  
Subdivision Okayed  
The Regional Planning Commission has approved the subdivision of 19 acres into 62 single family lots on Palos Verdes Peninsula. The property is located north of Montemalaga Drive and east of Palos Verdes Estates.

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