

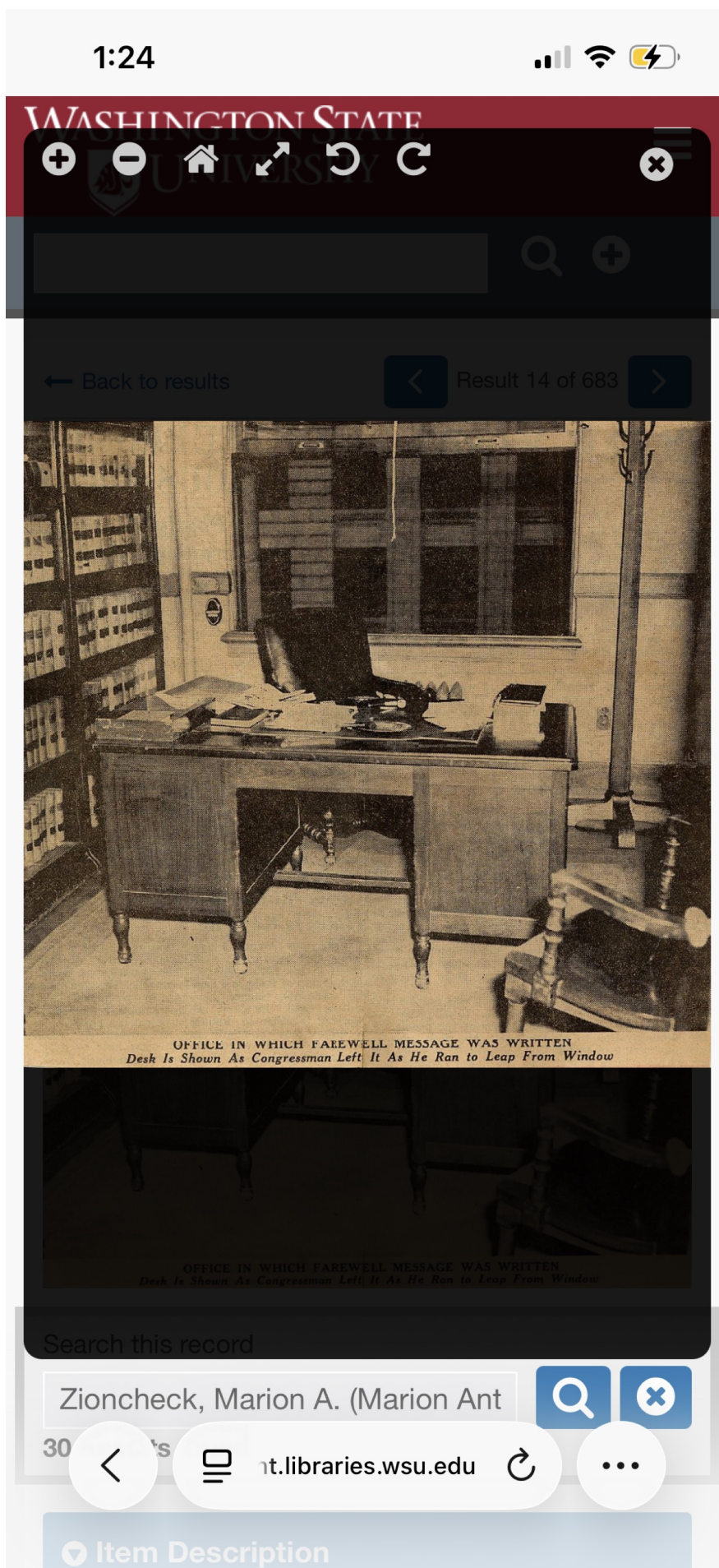
MARION A. ZIONCHECK

VISUAL ARCHIVE — VOLUME 2

Contemporary News Coverage & Family Battles

Arrests, hospital stays, estate fights, will contests, Ruby legal issues

18 images in this volume



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State history. State officials. U.S.
Representatives. Zioncheck, Marion A.
1936-08-08. p. 1

CONGRESS PLAYBOY LEAPS TO HIS DEATH AT SEATTLE

Zioncheck Hurls Body
Out of Window of
Office Block

LANDS NEAR HIS WIFE

Spectacular Career of Solon Is
Ended by Suicide After
Sessions In East

Seattle, Aug. 7. — (AP) — Rep. Marion A. Zioncheck (D-Wash), Seattle's playboy congressman, fell hatless and coatless to his death tonight from a fifth-story window of his campaign headquarters office in the Arctic building here. Coroner Otto H. Mittelstadt said "all indications pointed to Zioncheck's death being suicide," but an inquest will be held Friday, August 14. The congressman's body struck the pavement a few feet from where his bride, the former Rubye Louise Nix of Texarkana, Tex., was waiting in an automobile for her husband to come from the office. She became hysterical, collapsed and was taken to a hospital.

Returned to Race.

Zioncheck had announced his withdrawal from the congressional race last Saturday and on Tuesday had filed his declaration of candidacy for nomination on the democratic ticket.

He said he had decided to run only after his mother said she wanted him to prove to the people that he was "neither crazy nor foolish."

The fun-loving representative's career started as far back as his college days at the University of Washington. There he was elected president of the student body. Some time later he was thrown into the frosh pond on the campus by a band of hooded students.

Zioncheck had launched a campaign against the management of the football team and fraternities.

He was first elected to congress in 1932. He was reelected in 1934.

He became nationally known last New Year's eve when he plugged in all the telephones in his Washington, D. C., apartment house.

Nabbed for Speeding.

Later he was arrested for speeding in the nation's capital. This was followed by several other arrests for similar violations.

He married Miss Rubye Louise Nix of Texarkana, Texas, a WPA stenographer in Washington, in Annapolis, Md., April 28.

His marriage followed a whirlwind courtship.

Mr. and Mrs. Zioncheck had a rollicking honeymoon trip to Florida and the Virgin islands.

About this time his mother, Mrs. Frances Zioncheck, of Seattle, suffered a nervous breakdown, which physicians said was due to her son's antics.

On his return from honeymooning he and Mrs. Zioncheck went to New York City where they attracted throngs by wading in a pond in Radio City.

He went back to Washington, D. C., only to face trouble with his landlady.

Bad Boy of Congress.

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Zioncheck, Marion A. (Marion A.)



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State history. State officials. U.S. Representatives. Zioncheck, Marion A. 1936-08-08. p. 2

Washington, Aug. 7.—(AP)—Representative Zioncheck became known as the "bad boy of congress" as a result of a series of spectacular episodes here during his last term in the house.

Elected to represent the first district in Washington, in the Roosevelt landslide, he came to the national capital with a reputation for being a "coming young man" and an advanced liberal.

Aside from his congressional activities in the last year, he was in and out of jail and court several times on speeding charges; married Miss Rubye Nix, a WPA stenographer, after a whirlwind courtship; was confined to Gallinger hospital for mental observation; and escaped from the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt hospital at Twoson, Md., by jumping over a wall.

Beer Bottles for F. D. R.

He was taken to Gallinger hospital for observation after he had climaxed previous escapades by appearing at the White House with a satchel filled with empty beer bottles—a present for President Roosevelt.

On that same day he was charged with having speeded down crowded Connecticut avenue in his new roadster, driving on the wrong side of the street and on the sidewalk.

Speeding charges before that had caused his arrest here and in nearby Alexandria, Va., just as he and his bride left on a honeymoon to the Caribbean.

Prior to his detention, Zioncheck had also become involved in legal difficulties with Mrs. Benjamin Scott Young, a magazine writer, who had sub-let her apartment to him when she left for an extended trip.

Says Apartment Ruined.

Upon her return she charged that Zioncheck and his bride had "ruined" her apartment and sought to have them thrown out. The Zionchecks refused to move and Mrs. Young attempted to take possession.

Mrs. Young claimed to have been injured during a midnight scuffle in the apartment and swore out assault warrants against the representative and his wife. Zioncheck's motor car is still held here by the United States marshal's office in connection with the damage suit.

The Zionchecks spent their honeymoon in Puerto Rico and the Virgin islands and created as much excitement there on fishing and dancing parties as they did in Washington,

and upon their return continued celebrating in New York.

The Zioncheck Zipper

Included among the fun-lore of congressman's episodes in New York were:

Concocting the "Zioncheck zipper" of equal parts of rye and honey with a sprig of mint.

Wading in the Prometheus pool at Rockefeller plaza.

Holding his bride by the hair in an Apache dance at a night club.

Just a month ago Police Judge Walter J. Casey, after several continuances, set the assault charges against the Seattle congressman for trial on next January 19 on the assumption Zioncheck would be back for the convening of congress in January.

To escape from the Maryland institution in which he was confined in June Zioncheck scaled a seven foot wire fence surrounding an exercise yard, outdistanced attendants in a running race, and hid all night in the woods.

Eludes Search Party.

He eluded a searching party by hitch-hiking a ride into Washington and hid in his Capitol hill office for several hours before he was discovered.

Capitol police then prevented metropolitan police from arresting him until Kenneth Romney, sergeant-at-arms of the house, acting as mediator, arranged to secure safe conduct for Zioncheck back to Seattle.

Zioncheck traveled by train to Chicago and attempted to fly from there to Seattle, but airline officials after an argument at the airfield, refused to accept him as a passenger and he traveled on by train.

Associates at Funeral.

Expressing deep grief at the death of Representative Zioncheck, Kenneth A. Romney, sergeant-at-arms of the house, said he expected Speaker Bankhead of Alabama would name a committee of representatives tomorrow to attend the funeral.

Romney, who assisted Zioncheck in every possible way during his troubles here, said he was "deeply grieved" at the congressman's death.

"He (Zioncheck) left here with a serious persecution complex," Romney said, "probably his fate would have been the same had he remained here, and I am glad that I assisted him to go to the beside of his sick mother before he died."

Romney added that if the funeral

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Zioncheck, Marion A. (Marion A.)



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Death Ends Capers of Representative Zioncheck

A fall from his fifth-floor window in the Arctic club, Seattle, believed to have been suicidal, ended the career last night of Marion A. Zioncheck, eccentric democrat representative in congress from Washington state. He is shown here in his office in Washington, D. C. in one of his more serious moments with his wife, who was with him in the room from which he fell and who collapsed. (Oregonian-Wide World photo.)

A fall from his fifth-floor window in the Arctic club, Seattle, believed to have been suicidal, ended the career last night of Marion A. Zioncheck, eccentric democrat representative in congress from Washington state. He is shown here in his office in Washington, D. C. in one of his more serious moments with his wife, who was with him in the room from which he fell and who collapsed. (Oregonian-Wide World photo.)

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ZIONCHECK LANDS IN CAPITAL JAIL

Hip Broken, Claim; Bride, Crying, Quits Apartment as Drinks Are Poured

WASHINGTON, May 30 (AP)—Representative Marion A. Zioncheck, democrat, Washington, was arrested tonight on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was released by the police after almost two hours in jail when his secretary posted \$25 collateral.

The money was posted by Marion Young, Zioncheck's secretary, and police said the congressman elected to forfeit bail and would not appear in police court.

Zioncheck slipped out through the back door of the station house when released.

Aide Brings Clothes

His attorney, L. Q. C. Lamar, said: "He's gone to Atlantic City," and hurried away. He added that Zioncheck, who had been brought into the station barefoot and coatless, wore clothes brought to him by his secretary.

John W. Crabs, manager of the apartment house in which the congressman has been living, said he called the police after Zioncheck had hurled bottles, dishes and a typewriter out of the window of his apartment.

"Nobody was home except the congressman, and he must have lost his temper all by himself," Crabs said.

Mrs. Benjamin Scott Young, who claimed her hip was broken in a midnight scuffle in the apartment she had sublet to Zioncheck, called a lawyer to her hospital bed today to discuss possible action.

Zioncheck Serves Drinks

Meantime, Zioncheck, clad in pajamas and dressing gown, served drinks to a crowd of guests. Tearful and visibly upset, his bride finally stalked out of the disordered apartment and into that of a neighbor.

"Whoopie" was the congressman's only reply when asked about the series of escapades that has stretched from New York to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and from Washington to Pittsburgh and points south, including four arrests since last January 1.

Woman Found in Hall

Police and ambulance attendants, answering an early call to Zioncheck's apartment this morning, found Mrs. Young moaning in the hall, just outside the congressman's door.

"They threw me out five or six times," she sobbed hysterically. "They broke my hip and left me lying here most of the night. Don't take me to the hospital. Take me to the police station so I can swear out a warrant."

Zioncheck Provides "Answer"

As Dr. George Lemes Hewsky put an emergency splint on Mrs. Young's right leg, Zioncheck thrust his head through a crack in the door and said:

"Why should we let her stay here? This isn't a charitable institution."

Dr. Lemes Hewsky reported to police that Mrs. Young showed signs of having a fractured hip. The injury at that time had not been verified by X-ray.

Acts Held Legal

Going to his office at the capitol this afternoon, Zioncheck gave this as part of his version:

"I asked her to leave several times, each time in a decent manner. She refused each time to leave."

"Under the law and under my lease this apartment is my home and she was legally and properly ejected."

After describing her side of various events during the night, Mrs. Young said that early this morning the congressman hit her with a broom, shouting, "I'm a witch and my broom won't behave." He capered around the room, she said,

riding the broomstick and waving his beret.

Zioncheck invited bystanders into his apartment. There he played with his pins, poured generous tips on the crowd, and posed for pictures.

Mrs. Zioncheck tried to get breakfast, but could find no food in the pantry. She repeatedly asked her husband's "guests" to leave the apartment.

Later she walked angrily out of the room and into another apartment down the hall, refusing to say whether she and her husband had quarreled.

The apartment where the difficulty occurred was sub-leased to Zioncheck last winter. Mrs. Young, a magazine writer, recently returned to reclaim it after, she said, she had complaints from the apartment house.

In an effort to obtain possession, Mrs. Young went to the rooms yesterday and refused to leave.

"The police wouldn't arrest him because he was a congressman," she said as she was placed in the ambulance on a stretcher. "The time has come when we've got to see whether this country is going to be run by bolshevism or Americanism."

Age Given as 92

When police arrived at the apartment, she demanded:

"You saw me thrown out of my own apartment about six times last night. Why didn't you help me then? I never heard of such a thing."

When officers asked her age for use in an official report, she said she was 92 years old. She refused to let the officers change the figure to 42 in their report.

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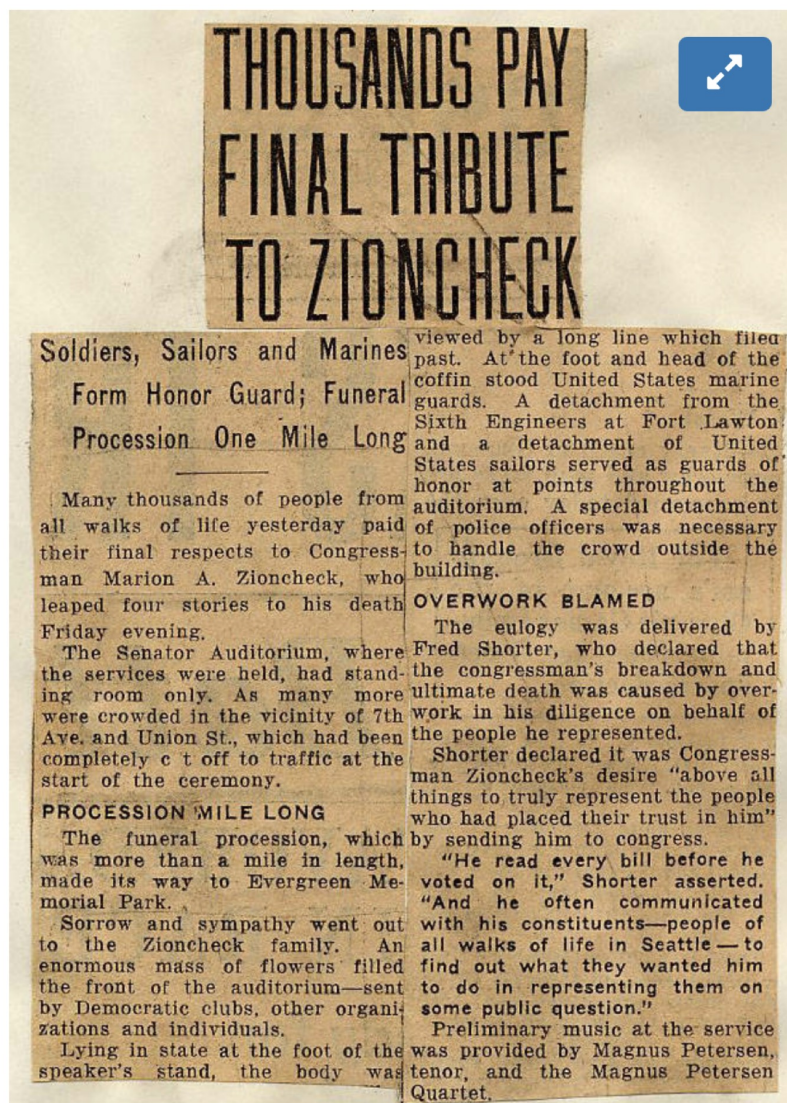
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ZIONCHECK MAY GET OUT SOON

WASHINGTON, Thursday, June 4.—(AP)—Dr. Edgar A. Bocock, superintendent of Gallinger Municipal Hospital, indicated today that Representative Marion A. Zioncheck of Seattle may be released from the institution by the end of the week.

Reporting that the congressman is reacting satisfactorily to rest and sleep in the institution—where he was committed for mental observation—Dr. Bocock intimated that an examination by psychiatrists today may conclude the case.

Zioncheck talked briefly with newspaper men yesterday, expressing confidence that he would win renomination and reelection this fall.

Dispatches from Seattle indicated that the ranks of his rivals were multiplying. Latest tabulations showed four Republicans and five Democrats might enter the race for his seat.

Discussing his five Democratic primary opponents, Zioncheck said he did not care if there were five or 500 candidates.

"The more the merrier," he commented.

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MRS. ZIONCHECK TAKES THE WHEEL

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., May 6. (AP)—Any thought of collecting the \$100 Representative Marion Zioncheck of Washington promised the officer who arrested him for speeding was cast aside by policemen here today—Mrs. Zioncheck is doing the driving now.

The pretty bride didn't say she wanted to keep the \$100 in the family, but she was at the wheel of their 12-cylinder roadster when the congressman went riding today.

Zioncheck looked today to the air for further fast movement in keeping with his present passenger policy. He and Mrs. Zioncheck booked passage on an air liner tomorrow for San Juan, Porto Rico.

Zioncheck offered the \$100 to any local officer catching him in a traffic violation when he promised to help Miami observe national safety week

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History. State ... offi atives. Zioncheck)

Photos in Connection With Sensational Death



Zioncheck had gone to congress two years ago, a political unknown, as a champion of the downtrodden. He announced August 1 he would not run for reelection, changed his mind August 4 and filed his candidacy.

The hat and coat of Representative Zioncheck are shown as they lay on the floor of his campaign office after his five-story death plunge.

Representative Zioncheck was social for his picture two days before his death. The Clark brothers had visited Zioncheck and Jack Clark, student at T. William Madrau, brother-in-law and representative Marion A. Zioncheck told auto

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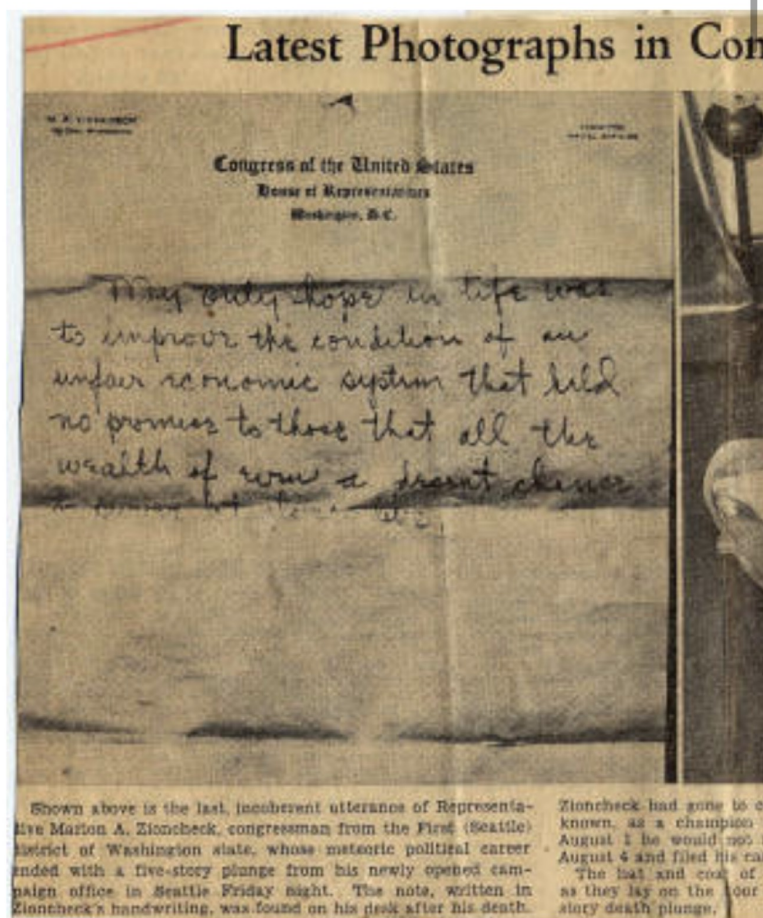
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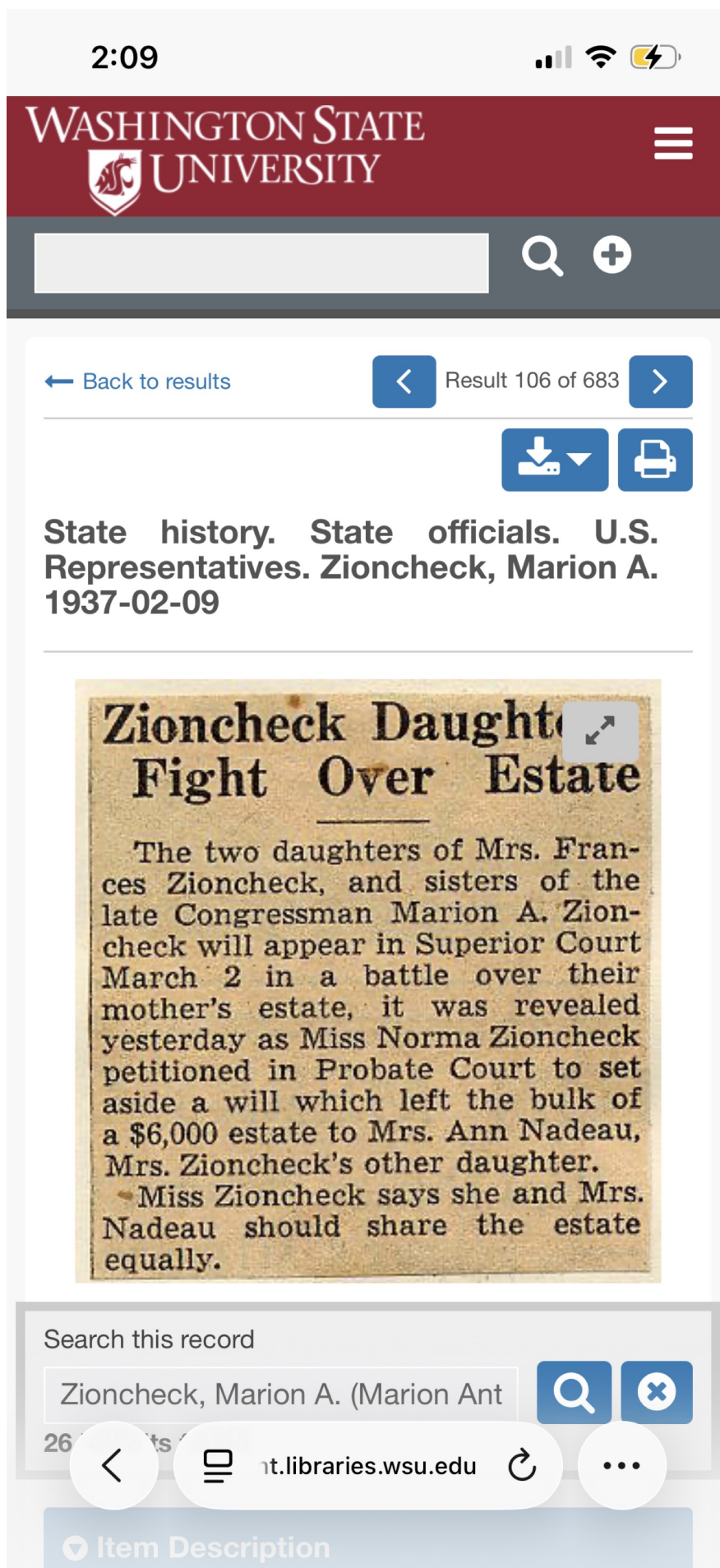


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State history. State officials. U.S. Representatives. Zioncheck, Marion A. 1937-04-30

NURSE DEFENDS ZIONCHECK WILL

Mrs. Frances Zioncheck, mother of the late Congressman Marion A. Zioncheck, was an "exceptionally intelligent and decisive woman," Dr. Thomas Ratigan, Seattle physician, testified today in Superior Judge Howard M. Findley's court, where Mrs. Zioncheck's two daughters are battling over her will. Dr. Ratigan said he attended Mrs. Zioncheck for two years prior to her death last fall.

The physician said that Mrs. Zioncheck showed no signs of mental incompetence but always was alert mentally whenever he visited her, although she sometimes seemed worried over Congressman Zioncheck's "troubles" in Washington, D. C.

Nurse Testifies

Mrs. Celia Kempfer, practical nurse who assisted Mrs. Zioncheck in drawing up the contested will, said the woman mentally was competent at the time. Mrs. Kempfer said that Mrs. Zioncheck suffered from an hallucination that there was no food in the house several weeks after the drawing of the will and after she was worried over Congressman Zioncheck having been confined in an eastern institution.

Attorney Ivan Merrick, representing the estate's administratrix, Mrs. Ann Nadeau, a daughter of

Mrs. Zioncheck, failed yesterday an effort to halt the testimony, contended that Newman, attorney for Miss Norma Zioncheck, another daughter, who is contesting the will, had not offered sufficient evidence.

Widow Excused

Mrs. Rubye Nix Zioncheck, attractive widow of the congressman, left the witness stand late yesterday, excused from further witness duty. She refused to comment on whether she would leave immediately for Hollywood to enter motion pictures. Mrs. Zioncheck arrived here by airplane from Hollywood Wednesday. She and Mrs. Nadeau are legal opponents in another action over Mrs. Frances Zioncheck's estate.

Judge Findley yesterday halted Merrick's questioning of Mrs. Zioncheck relative to parties and escapades in which her husband figured in Washington prior to and after her marriage. Merrick said he wished to show how the former congressman spent money which was sent him by his mother, but Judge Findley held the recital was not pertinent.

Hallucination Told

Dr. Paul Van Arsdel verified Mrs. Rubye Zioncheck's testimony relative to the older woman's "hallucinations that she had no money and no food." The doctor told how relatives tried to keep news of the congressman's escapades from his mother.

First defense witness called yesterday was George Kempfer, a former resident at the Zioncheck home. He told how he and his mother, Mrs. Frances Zioncheck's nurse, drew the will, which is challenged by Clark's witnesses on the ground that Mrs. Frances Zioncheck was incompetent mentally at the time she signed the will.

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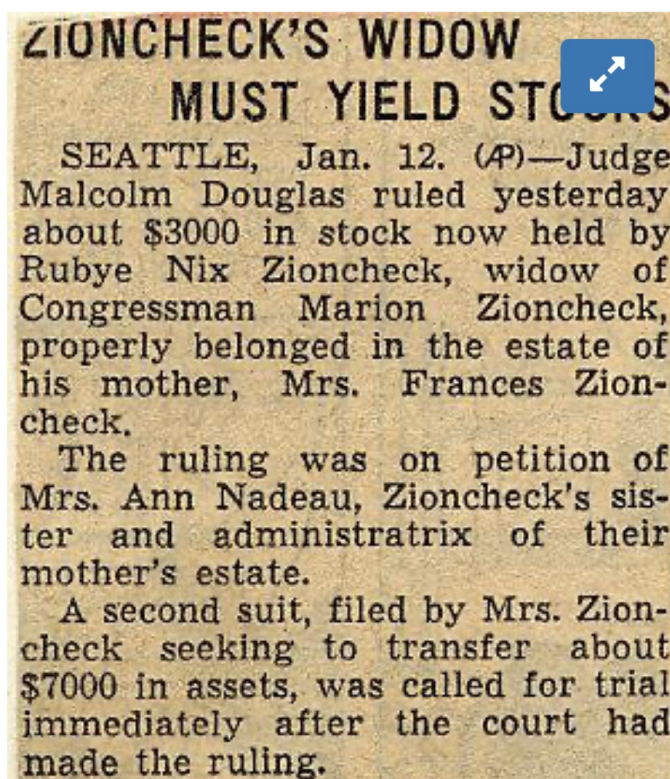
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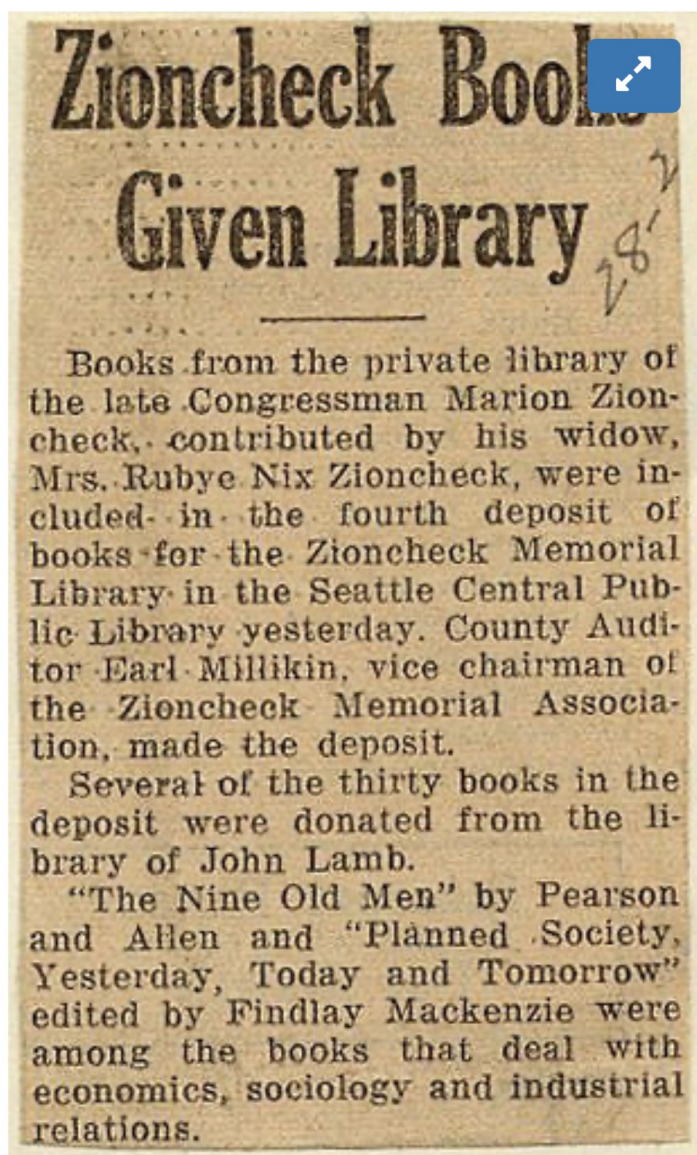
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KIN FIGHT OVER ZIONCHECK WILL

"This is nothing but a 'fishing

Later in the hearing, Mrs. Rubye Zioncheck, who also had been cited, was questioned by Merrick relative to asserted sale of certain stocks which the congressman purchased before his death. After Mrs. Zioncheck said she did not know how much of the estate remained, the citation against her was dismissed.

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person or persons who remain unknown.

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LTE

John M. Bolton



Member of the **Illinois House of Representatives**
for the Second District

In office

1931 – July 9, 1936

Personal details

Born	October 5, 1901 ^[1] Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
Died	July 9, 1936 (aged 34) Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
Cause of death	Shooting
Resting place	All Saints Cemetery
Party	Democratic
Education	Chicago Public Schools

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