

2nd man found guilty in Mayhood slaying

The second of two men charged with the murder of a former state senator was found guilty Tuesday night by a Hennepin County jury.

Wilmer Martin, 49, was found guilty of third-degree murder yesterday for the Jan. 18 death of former state Sen. Ralph L. Mayhood. Mayhood, 68, died of a heart attack, shortly after being beaten with a wine bottle and an iron pipe in the basement of a rooming house he owned at 1810 Washington Av. S.

Martin and Charles Desjarlais, 30, both residents of the rooming house, were charged with murder after a witness told police that the two attacked Mayhood when he tried to protect a crippled resident from an apparent robbery attempt. Desjarlais pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter April 4, midway through jury selection for his trial on third-degree murder charges. Hennepin District Judge

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Crane Winton accepted Desjarlais's plea to the lesser charge and immediately sentenced him to up to 15 years in prison.

Martin was found guilty yesterday by a jury in Hennepin County District Judge A. Paul Lommen's courtroom. The case was sent to the jury in the late afternoon and the jury returned several hours later with the guilty verdict. Martin is being held for a pre-sentence investigation before Lommen sentences him.

Mayhood served in the Minnesota Legislature from 1941-43 as a state representative and from 1943-59 as a state senator. He had been a

controversial figure because of his opposition to laws that would allow city inspections of nursing homes. Mayhood had owned two nursing homes.

Mayhood's rooming house, where derelicts paid \$80 to \$100 a month for tiny apartments, was considered a trouble spot by police because of frequent beatings and robberies there. According to police, a man was beaten and strangled in the rooming house several years ago in a murder that has never been solved. Shortly after Mayhood's murder, the rooming house was declared "unfit for human habitation" by the city inspections department.