

Former state senator beaten to death

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A former Minnesota legislator was beaten to death last night when he apparently tried to help a crippled man fend off three robbers, according to police.

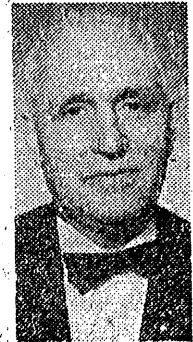
Ralph L. Mayhood, 68, was found dead about 10 p.m. last night in a decrepit apartment he ran at 1810 Washington Av. S. A police report said Mayhood lived at the apartment. He represented Minneapolis as both a state senator and representative.

Two men, aged 30 and 48, and a 39-year-old woman were arrested in connec-

tion with the slaying. The three told police they lived at the building.

Police were called to the apartment by two residents who directed them to a basement living area where Mayhood's body was found in a hallway. Investigators were to begin interviewing witnesses today to compile a more complete account of the incident.

According to a preliminary police report, however, the killing occurred after an attempted robbery of Leon J. Siss, 58, described as being crippled, who lived in



Mayhood

MAYHOOD
Turn to Page 5A

MAYHOOD

Continued from Page 1A

the basement of the building.

Siss said he was being attacked and robbed by the three persons who were later arrested. When Mayhood intervened, the former legislator was beaten over the head, Siss said. Police reports described the weapons used as a pipe, a half-gallon wine bottle and fists.

A detective today said the robbers had taken a small amount of money from Siss but Siss was not seriously injured in the attack.

Police Lt. William Quinn said the building had for years been a trouble spot and police had frequently received calls there for beatings and robberies.

Several years ago, Quinn said, a person was beaten and strangled there. The case remains unsolved.

Mayhood was a controversial member of the state Legislature, primarily because he had opposed repeal of a law which prevented Minneapolis city officials from inspecting nursing homes for many years. Mayhood formerly owned two nursing homes, which city officials described as substandard and unsafe.

The law preventing the inspections became known as the "Mayhood law" and newspaper editorials bitterly opposed his reelection. When he was defeated after 16 years in the Senate in 1958 by Jack Davies, one editorial said, "Mayhood's willingness to use his official influence to protect his nursing homes was unforgivable."

He was born in Eyota, Minn., and graduated from Rochester High School, working his way through Northwestern University and the University of Minnesota. While attending the Minnesota Collage of Law in 1942 he worked as a bellhop at the Curtis Hotel.

He was a state representative from 1941 to 1943, when he was elected to the Senate.