[MS-0426.004.013.063]

CORE Leader Here Names Citizen of Year

Hal Brown, president of the San Diego chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, has been named Citizen of the Year by a social fraternity.

Percy H. Steele Jr., executive secretary of the San Diego Urban League, was named Man of the Year.

Plaques were presented to both men at the Purple and Gold Ball of the Omega Psi Fraternity at Del Webb's OceanHouse Saturday night. The ball was sponsored by Phi Omicron, the group's San Diego chapter.

During the affair attended by more than 600 civic leaders and citizens, Thomas H. McPhatter, master of ceremonies, paid tribute to the late President.

"John F. Kennedy emancipated minds of men which had been enslaved by religious bigotry, racial hate, and national blindness," McPhatter said.

"John F. Kennedy was a man of his conviction, a man who stood for every principle which the Constitution of the United States advocates.

"Liberty and justice for all were the guidelines of his life. No power or influence in his life was able to deter him from this dedication."

McPhatter, a chaplain at the San Diego Naval Base, said President Kennedy died "by the hand of an ungodly and evil man, whose evil passion had been nurtured by an atmosphere of hate and bigotry."

But, he said, the assassin "alone does not bear the guilt of slaying our great friend and godly brother, but each and every American who passively accepted the assassination of Medgar Evers, and the children of Birmingham who were slaughtered by evil racists and bigots who make our nation unsafe for anyone who opposes their enslavement of men's minds and wills."