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Equalizing Game of Cops and Robbers

THE city council of Kennesaw, Ga., is taking seriously the slogan "When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns."

By enacting an ordinance requiring heads of families in that community to have guns and be prepared to use them, the council has come down clearly on the side of citizens and against outlaws.

Since the Kennesaw decree did not provide for enforcement or penalties it obviously was a statement of attitude putting crooks on notice that they just might get shot if caught in their acts.

Robbers, burglars and thieves use any means they can devise to outwit the law. It seems only fair that citizens, police and the FBI ought to be allowed to use whatever legal means within their reach to equalize the deadly game of cops and robbers.

The scoreboard shows that Oklahomans still are losing. Outlaws ran up their score further in 1981 when murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault increased another 6.7 percent over 1980.

Federal judges continue to distort

plain language of the constitution into protection for outlaws. Justice is mocked as obvious criminals go free because evidence against them is barred.

This subject is discussed at length in the February Federal Bar News & Journal, published by the Federal Bar Association. The article was written by Charles E. Hoffhaus, Kansas City attorney.

Hoffhaus writes that the model of the person for whose benefit constitutional criminal rights were adopted originally was a colonial farmer or shopkeeper. He is described as patriotic, law-abiding, honest religious, temperate in his habits, more likely than not a homeowner and family man.

"He was one to whom could safely be extended the benefit of doubt in questions of search and seizure, arrest, bail and parole," the attorney declares. He calls the present-day situation a case of role-reversal, with rights extended to opposites of early American citizens whom they were designed to protect.

"I have decided that something is

amiss if I go on in a timorous acquiescence to some scofflaw's 'sacred constitution values,' while he breaks into my and my neighbor's homes with impunity again and again," Hoffhaus says in regard to rulings that bar evidence defense lawyers claim violates defendant's rights.

"I do not think it has been or can be shown that if relieved of the exclusionary rule the police will suddenly go wild and indulge in an orgy of invasions of constitutional rights," he states. "I would far rather take my chance with today's comparatively well-educated, well-trained and equipped young officers than with punks who are kicking in doors in my neighborhood, probably at this very minute."

The most valid theory offered for crime increases seems to be that the greedy and the violent do not expect to be punished.

Burglars and sneak thieves in Kennesaw, Ga., might be well advised to avoid householders prepared to shoot first. Sales of handguns have been picking up in Oklahoma City lately, too.