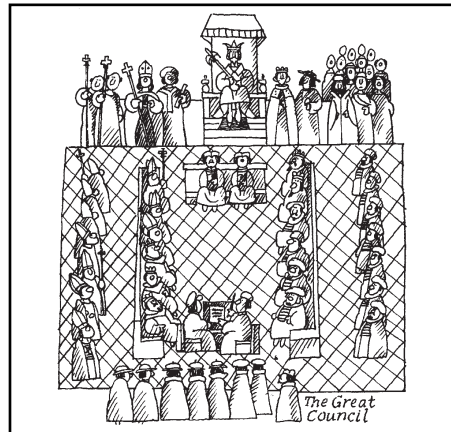


How parliament began

After the time of King John, when the monarch met with the barons it was called the **Great Council**.



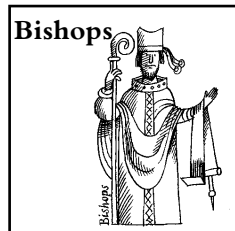
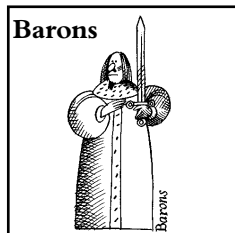
The Great Council gave advice to the king. Around 1258 the Great Council began to be called a **parliament**.

If the monarch wanted to raise money through taxes he had to ask the parliament, which was made up of only the very richest nobles in the land.

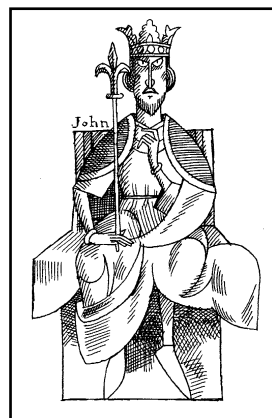
When the king began to tax lesser knights they were invited to parliament too. Eventually, because monarchs needed more money, wealthy townspeople, called burgesses, were taxed. They were also invited to parliament. The monarch usually asked knights and burgesses (commoners) to meet him separately from barons and bishops (nobles or lords). This eventually resulted in there being two places for such meetings – the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

House of Lords

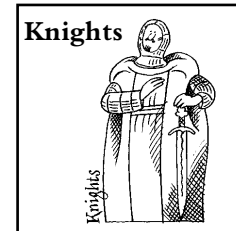
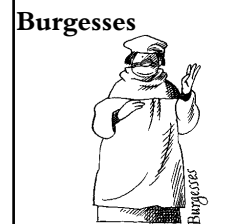
The barons and bishops would meet in the House of Lords.



The Monarch



House of Commons



The knights and wealthy townsmen would meet in the House of Commons.

Each member of the House of Lords was invited by the monarch to sit in parliament.

Members of the House of Commons got their place because people voted for them. The only people who could vote were men who owned land worth more than £2 (two pounds), a lot of money in those times.