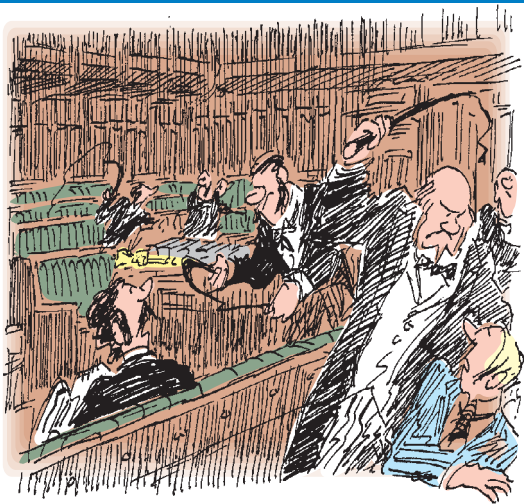


Whipping the House to order



In this day and age, when field sports are under attack, it is ironic that they are the origin of the name given to officials who organise members of parliament into voting their party's way

They are called **whips** after the whippers-in of the hunting field who keep rumbustious packs of hounds in order. When they underline the summons to vote three times – called a **three-line whip** – woe betide any MP who fails to obey because their presence in the House of Commons is mandatory