

Role of the Speaker



■ **Members of Britain's Parliament elect Speaker who controls proceedings of House of Commons, chairs debates, keeps order and calls on MPs to speak**

■ **Speaker required to be impartial referee. When elected, Speaker resigns from his or her party**

■ **Position dates back to 1377**

■ **Speaker is highest commoner in land, representing House of Commons' independence in dealing with monarchy**

■ **Speaker is responsible for running Fees Office which is at heart of MPs' expenses scandal**

■ **During reign of Henry VIII three Speakers were beheaded**

■ **Only Speaker to be forcibly stripped of his role was Sir John Trevor who was expelled in 1695 for accepting a bribe**

■ **Speaker receives £141,866 salary**