

1 As a matter of fact, recorded history tells us
2 they first found their way into English common law by
3 the statutes of 14, Edward the Third, Statutes 2, Chapter
4 one.

5 Because I am sometimes called a devotee of
6 classical language, I would like to read you these words.
7 The statute says the prelates, earls, barons and common
8 citizens, burgesses and merchants shall not be charged
9 to make any aid if it be not of the common assent of the
10 great men and common in parliament.

11 You can see at the outset what we are really
12 talking about here is the concept of taxation without
13 representation.

14 Blackstone goes on to suggest that the funda-
15 mental law has been shamefully evaded under many succeeding
16 princes by compulsive loans and benevolences, extorted
17 without a real or voluntary consent, and it was therefore
18 made an article in the petition of rights in III Charles,
19 Number 1, that no man shall be impelled to yield any
20 gift, loan, or benevolence, tax or such like charge
21 without the common consent of an act of parliament.