**Committee:** The First Scottish War of Independence

**Assigned Character:** Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford

**Delegate name:** Valeria Lau

**First Scottish War of Independence - England**

As the Kingdom of England dives into a time of doubt and uncertainty, it must find strength in a unified council that keeps the best interests of the Kingdom at heart. Through England’s highly valued relationship with the Church and the fair reign of King Edward I, asserting the Kingdom’s influence over Scotland is imperative if stability is to be ensured. Through the Crown’s preparation for the many challenges ahead, the Lords must tread carefully if they are to avoid a bloody defeat.

It is with confidence that Humphrey de Bohun, 4th Earl of Hereford undertakes the responsibility of advising the King. While remaining loyal, his position can at times drift away from that of the King, allowing him to bring forth a fresh perspective on important matters. De Bohun firmly believes in the rights of the Lords and the rule of law. He fiercely opposes monarchic tyranny, and this will be reflected in every step of his decision-making. In addition to the power granted to him by his high social and financial status, Humphrey de Bohun holds the title of Lord High Constable of England[[1]](#footnote-1). This makes him the commander of the royal armies, and it is certain that, if armed conflict were to arise, de Bohun would be thoroughly involved[[2]](#footnote-2).

The most pressing matter is the appointment of the new King of Scotland. Humphrey de Bohun believes that whoever is proposed must represent a proper balance between loyalty to the English crown and the interests of the Scottish people. It is the only way that will allow for peace to be possible. If the desires of the Scots are entirely repressed in the process, it will foster further hostility. De Bohun also sees urgency in addressing matters of internal conflict, namely the rising crime rate. He knows that if there is discontent amongst the English people, the morale of the kingdom will suffer disproportionately in the case of a battle. The situation is complex and ever-changing, but no facet of the threat can be ignored. This means that instability in Ireland and the Kingdom of France, while not the most urgent priority, must not be put aside. Humphrey de Bohun believes that the Kingdom of England must proceed with the collaboration of the Church, and adhering faithfully to the ideology of Magna Carta: “To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice[[3]](#footnote-3).”

1. Chisholm, Hugh. "*Household, Royal*". Encyclopædia Britannica (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Translation from the Latin of The Magna Carta of England, 1215, prepared by Xavier Hildegarde, 2001 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)