

# The DISPATCH BOXES



One of Northern Territory's Dispatch Boxes.

In the Chamber, on the central table known as the Table, are two wooden dispatch boxes. Traditionally, in the British Parliament, these were used to carry bills that had been passed, or other important documents, to the King or Queen for their approval. Although they are no longer used to carry papers, most parliaments still have dispatch boxes. They are often used as speaking points in the Chamber,

such as in the Federal Parliament.

The dispatch boxes in the Northern Territory Chamber are copies of those used in the House of Representatives in Canberra. They were presented by the Commonwealth Parliament in 1977 to acknowledge the commencement of the transfer of certain powers to the Northern Territory with Self-Government.



Speaking at the Dispatch Box in the Federal House of Representatives.

The dispatch boxes of the Northern Territory are made of elm and silver. As Northern Territory's Parliament House is quite modern and spacious, members are able to make their speeches from their desks in the Chamber. Therefore these dispatch boxes are simply traditional and symbolic links to early parliaments. However, they are used on special occasions. For instance, the treasurer delivers the budget speech from the dispatch box on the government side and the Leader of the Opposition gives their budget reply from their dispatch box.

The two Dispatch Boxes on the Table of the Chamber of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly.

