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Code of Conduct proposal endorsed

Assistant Speaker and Manakau East MP Ross Robertson today welcomed the report of Parliament's Standing Orders Committee, released last Thursday.

"The report endorses the principles of my proposals to establish a Code of Conduct for MPs," he said.

"The report underscored the importance of such a Code, citing a submission from a group of students from Wellington High School on their observations of the behaviour of members in the House. The students had an unfavourable assessment of this behaviour. They made a number of suggestions regarding the need for members to consider their position as role models and the development of a culture of positive debate and co-operation.

"The review said that the Committee did not condone the trade in personal insults and also acknowledged that at times members, through their behaviour, do themselves no favours in the eyes of the public," Ross Robertson said.

"Now that the Committee has agreed that the behaviour in the House can, at times, be less than desirable, I urge the Government to take up the suggestion in the report.

"This suggests that the principles of a Code of Conduct could be considered during the examination of the Members of Parliament (Pecuniary Interests) Bill," Ross Robertson concluded.

Attached: P.23, Review of Standing Orders (December 2003)

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