

13 OCT 1983

Moral values in the Parkinson affair

From Mrs Patricia Coady

Sir, It seems (*The Times*, October 11) that if you have committed an "indiscretion" you may be Secretary of State for Trade and Industry but not Foreign Secretary or Chairman of the Conservative Party.

Is this an indication of a governmental sliding scale of moral values or a reflection of their true attitude to the importance of industry? Or both?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA COADY,
4 The Mead,
Beckenham, Kent.
October 11.

From Mr John H. Gladwin

Sir, I refer to your leader of October 7.

May I answer your question as to why the public expects its leaders to preserve the outward forms of a morality which, you claim, it no longer practises. It is simply because we do expect our leaders to demonstrate by example - a fundamental of leadership - the high moral standards to which, I pray, the majority of us do, and will continue to, aspire.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN H. GLADWIN,
Normanhurst,
Warwick Road,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.
October 7

From Dr G. D. Wassermann

Sir, As a Tory voter I have been deeply impressed by the present generous public attitude towards one of the greatest British statesmen ever, David Lloyd George. His long-lasting affair with his mistress, during his marriage, did not seriously belittle the status of this liberal political giant.

Only recently the BBC serialized his life on TV, including his private affair, and repeated the series, presumably because of public acclaim for true greatness. So why

should, in this day and age, this nation be deprived of the governmental service of a man as outstandingly able as Mr Cecil Parkinson who did no worse than Lloyd George? Are there double standards?

Yours faithfully,
GERHARD D. WASSERMANN,
21 Oakhurst Drive,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
October 11.

From Mrs C. V. Longrigg

Sir, Is it now considered much worse to give up all adulterous connexion than to abandon a wife and family?

Is it no longer possible to say to an adulterer who has seen the error of his/her ways, "Neither do I condemn thee" without incurring the accusation of condoning - even encouraging - adultery?

Am I alone in finding the "morality" of the 1980s confusing?

Yours faithfully,
C. V. LONGRIGG,
23 Norham Road,
Oxford.
October 11.

From Sir John Colville

Sir,
Few of our island kith and kin
Are totally immune to sin.
Yet, when some man the public know

Is caught *flagrante delicto*
With feigned regret and hidden spite
The sepulchres are painted white.
Sometimes the plea's security;
Sometimes it's national purity.
Unleashing bloodhounds:

splendid sport
For those who've not themselves
been caught.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN COLVILLE,
The Close,
Broughton,
Stockbridge,
Hampshire.
October 10.