

BRIEFLY

● **THE EMOTIVE** account by Deborah Eppin, the dead child's mother in the Louise Woodward trial, of the day on which her son died was described by commentators as a harrowing and damning testimony against the defendant. Why? If the evidence of a bereaved mother is more damning than that of the professional medical experts, then I am worried about a system where secondary victims are able to sway juries without having to give any corroborative factual evidence to support what they are saying.

**Linda Payne, Millfield,
New Ash Green, Kent.**

● **AS a non-Conservative,** I would like to say something in defence of Piers Merchant. I spent six months wrongly in prison this year and the housing benefit office refused to pay my rent. Piers

Merchant went to considerable lengths to have it restored and backdated. If not for him I would have been left homeless in spite of my acquittal. An MP should be judged on how well he serves his constituents, not on his personal life.

**A Baron,
Venner Road, SE26.**

● **LORD Jakobovitz,** former Chief Rabbi, has rightly pointed out that the Tory leadership is deserting family values. The picture it paints of a good-humoured tolerance of anything that does not impinge on the law of the land is bogus. It is like a parent of spoiled brats who makes things worse by giving way to their every demand.

**Dr J Heron,
Culverley Road, SE6.**