

who was there not for the first time and certainly not for the last. "My dear," he told me, "the vintage champagne, this year was exquisite, but I didn't care much about the royal horses."

The absurd iota

• As the temperature rises the encephaloi of the computers of the gang which wants to change the names of Cyprus are working at high speed. So articles appear in the main Greek Cypriot newspapers suggesting now the existence of the absurd and illogical iota and claiming that the father of the labour movement Andreas Ziartides must become Antreas Zartides.

I am not a philology expert nor do I pretend to have certificates in glossology but I find this new invention of the absurd iota equally absurd as the whole affair which added an epsilon to minimise the absurdity of the iota as to Lakatamia, Lania, Layia and Yermasoyia.

The fobia of Kleri

• To complete my items on misspellings, a reader who describes herself "an avid reader" sent me an amusing cutting from last month's Readers' Digest according to which cloisterphobia is the fear of being stuck in a lift with ten nuns but fobia is the fear of misspelled words. Our reader appropriately dedicates her contribution to a woman called Kleri.

The Russians did come

• And so finally the Russians did come, flooding mainly Limassol and to some degree Ayia Napa and other tourist resorts. They are what tourist bureaucrats call "good quality tourists." Apart from official classification and having met some Russians last week I say they are wonderful people, da da da. It is however a mystery where they find all these dollars, but this is, unquestionably, not the concern of the Limassol barmen and restaurateurs who accept them happily and have learned to say kharasho. Limassolians are obviously very adaptable and the first Russian dollars-- nobody talks about rubles any more - were used to convert the Arabic signs into Russian in proper Cyrillic alphabet. Surely my friend and the extremely active member of the House of Representatives Rina Catsellis will not table a motion about shop signs in strange languages. After all the Cyrillic Russian derived from Greek and was presented to the Russians by a monk called Cyril.

Save the salt lake

• Locals and visitors agree that one of the most beautiful areas on this island is the Larnaca salt lake with the oasis of the Tekké of Um Haram and the backdrop of the exquisite Stavrovouni mountain. This salt lake, the salt of which is no longer suitable for human consumption, as a result of pollution from aircraft using Larnaca inter-

national airport, is yet the victim of another pollution: the dumping of rubbish by people who live in Larnaca and in villages nearby. In other words the first picture a visitor, who lands in Cyprus stores in his memory or records on his film is the disgusting rubbish heap at Larnaca salt lake. It seems that the salt lake is not municipal ground and the responsibility lies with the Ministry of the Interior and more specifically with the District Officer of Larnaca.

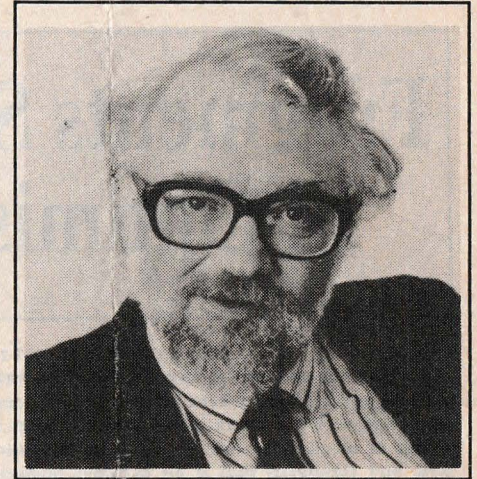
I do not expect immediate or much action. I therefore rely on the sensitivity of the Minister of the Interior Dinos Michaelides expecting him to order immediate action to save the salt lake.

Like hell

• If you want to find out what hell is like, go and spend the night in one of the apartments in Makarios Avenue Limassol, particularly near the roundabout. Kamikaze on powerful machines have made the lives of residents impossible and when the police were asked for help, at least on one occasion, they told the sleepless caller that it would be better to rent a flat elsewhere. Limassol now has a new police chief. Let the Makarios avenue roundabout noise pollution be his first task.

Dead cows

• A cargo aircraft carrying 24 cows to Saudi Arabia was turned back because the Sau-



dis refused to accept the cows as the animals, due to bad ventilation on the aircraft, had died during the flight. The cargo plane landed at Paphos to bury the cows and load table grapes for Europe. A burial place could not be found for so many cows, since the Paphians have used every inch of available space to build hotels and golf courses and anyway we do not have cow cemeteries in Cyprus.

After refuelling the plane flew to Luxembourg, with the dead cows on board. This particular plane probably did take the cows for burial to Luxembourg, but I would like to ask whether there is a way, for any country to monitor whether dead cows are not dropped from the aircraft into the Mediterranean to pollute the sea even further.