

The First Christian Church

NORTH SIXTH STREET
SLOAN GENTRY, MINISTER
LONGVIEW, TEXAS

March 30, 1954

C. F. Hansson, Chief of Police
2012 Main Street
Dallas, Texas

Dear Chief Hansson:

I believe in commending a man when he deserves it. Such a man is Officer J. D. Tippit, badge No. 848. I have never before received a traffic summons for speeding, but I have heard many people tell how impolite policemen can be when issuing them, especially for speeding. I came through your city violating your law at 5:30 in the morning. Officer Tippit was very polite and courteous. He patiently explained what I had done wrong and was never even gruff. I believe that this is unusual at 5:30 in the morning, after probably working all night. My faith in and respect for police officers has been renewed.

I do have two suggestions to offer. In driving through Dallas yesterday morning on my way to Fort Worth, I was almost involved in an accident three or four times by other drivers cutting out of their lanes into mine. I do not know if this is a violation of your law or not, but it is extremely dangerous unless the other driver makes a hand signal. This seemed to be quite common with no attempt at correction. The other suggestion is that on highway 80 (business route) you place some larger signs telling the speed limit. I entered the city and there was a large sign saying, "Speed limit 40 miles per hour." As I continued on toward town, I did not notice any other speed signs. I had noticed before that on the traffic signals there were signs saying that the traffic signals were set for 30 miles per hour. After my arrest, I looked at the next traffic signal and I saw in rather small lettering, "Speed limit, 30." Here in Longview, highway 80 has a speed limit of 40 until you come into town and it is reduced to 35, but there are several large signs telling out of town drivers. When you are used to this speed and driving in a strange city, it is good to have large signs telling you the speed limit.

I have sent a similar letter to Judge O'Brien with my check for \$10.00, the amount of my fine.

Sincerely,



Leslie K. Green, Associate Minister