



ALLIED RICHARD BERTRAM
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

March 4, 2007

DIRECTOR
Florida Highway Patrol
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0500

**RE: TROOPER D. CLOKES
I.D.NO. 2044/TROOP D**

Good afternoon, FHP Director,

I have recently moved to the state of Florida (like so many of my northern brethren) from a lifetime of living in New Jersey. I find myself commuting often down I-95 from my home in northern Florida to my job in Fort Lauderdale.

Yesterday afternoon I was returning home with a number of northbound vehicles during my 6+ hour commute, at a speed that generally exceeded the 70 mph limit. At one point in Brevard County I was thinking about home, listening to Jimmy Buffet and not focused on my speedometer. My Audi is a German touring sedan, built for high speed cruising on the German Autobahn, and I was definitely "pushing the envelope" on the speed limit! The above referenced trooper caught me on his radar and pulled me over. (Ironically, my late father, Dr. Harold A. Zahl, was one of the scientists who helped to invent radar just before World War II!) Having one of my close friends a Lieutenant in the New Jersey State Police, and a brother who has been Chief of Police in his Jersey community for years, I knew better than to do anything but be polite and hope for mercy...

Officer Clokes was the consummate professional and a true gentleman. He made it crystal clear that this warning should make a significant difference in my driving habits and I assured him that it would! Being a Yank getting stopped south of the Mason Dixon Line I really had no idea what to expect and as I was treated with such professionalism and courtesy I felt obliged to pass on my appreciation to his Commanding Officer. I will be a much more aware and cautious driver in the future and hope that the majority of your FHP Officers operate with the professional standards that Officer Clokes employs.

Cordially yours,


James F. Zahl
