

## *Watch Your Tongue*

*By Thomas H. Chappell*

The general aviation industry is a fun, light hearted place to work and hangout. Hanging around the hangar or FBO lobby is great. It is just fun sharing stories with fellow pilots and flirting with the counter girls. Woops! “Flirting with the counter girls.”

Did I say flirting with the counter girls? Well times have changed. What was acceptable a few years ago may not be quite so acceptable today. You have heard of politically correct. Today, we are also bound by socially correct behavior. “I meant nothing by it. I just complimented her build. Didn’t she know I was just joking?”

The hard facts are that in today’s world, you could be sued for just being playful, especially in a recessionary economy. Just for “grins” let’s say the counter girl who was the object of your affection had a spouse that had just lost his job. Money is tight and she has a mortgage payment due. And along comes you with your playfulness. This young lady may just be inclined to turn the entire situation over to an out-of-work attorney. Well, you get the picture.

Maybe you would not dream of flirting with the FBO staff. What about your professional pilot or possibly your guest? You guessed it. You can be caught up in the scenario too. Of course, you can purchase Employment Practices Liability Insurance (EPLI). I would suggest a good caution to those that represent you and have your insurance agent give you a quote on an EPLI policy. →