

Cary Grant celebrates 80th

United Press International
 BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Actor Cary Grant, who epitomized elegant men-of-the-world in movies for more than three decades, celebrates his 80th birthday today, feeling "pretty good for an old character."

"I'm happy I made it this far, but there won't be any special celebration," Grant told UPI in a rare interview.

Grant, who retired from a 70-movie acting career in 1966,

plans to spend his birthday at home, a 4-acre Beverly Hills estate, which he shares with his fifth wife, Barbara. His only child, 17-year-old Jennifer (by actress Dyan Cannon) will join him.

"As for my 80th birthday, I'm going to duck everyone and keep a low profile," he said. "I hope for a nice quiet and relaxing day at home."

Grant starred with some of the screen's most beautiful actresses in such hits as "She

Done Him Wrong," with Mae West, "Notorious," with Ingrid Bergman, "The Philadelphia Story," with Katharine Hepburn, and "North by Northwest," with Eva Marie Saint.

Some of his other films included "Topper," "Gunga Din," "An Affair to Remember," "His Girl Friday," "The Awful Truth" and "Bringing Up Baby."

Since his retirement from films, the last of which was "Walk, Don't Run," Grant has remained active as a board member of MGM-United

Artists, Faberge, the MGM-Grand Hotel in Las Vegas and Hollywood Park race track.

In 1969, Grant was honored with a special Academy Award in recognition of his long film career.

Grant travels frequently to New York and Europe, but except on rare occasions, such as the recent salute to Frank Sinatra, he avoids television appearances.

Grant, who was born Archibald Leach in Bristol, England, Jan. 18, 1904, remains unimpressed about his screen career. He has no regrets about retiring.

Civil rights commission reverses liberal policy

United Press International

HUNT VALLEY, Md. — The reborn U.S. Civil Rights Commission, steering in a new conservative direction, overturned a 3-year-old policy Tuesday and declared its opposition to quotas as a way to make up for race and sex discrimination.

On a 6-2 vote, the commission issued a policy statement condemning quota systems for giving "preferential" treatment to certain numbers of minorities or women at the expense of "innocent third parties," who get passed over for jobs, promotions or other benefits.

The action reverses a stand taken by the Civil Rights Commission in 1981 in which it endorsed quotas as one method of affirmative action. The vote capped the anti-discrimination panel's first meeting since it was reorganized under a compromise forged between Congress and the White House.

Congressional reaction to the decision was quick and bitter, with Rep. Don Edwards, chairman of the House Judiciary civil rights subcommittee, saying the

commission had made itself "irrelevant" as a force in civil rights.

Edwards, D-Calif., told reporters in Washington the commission is "now a totally irrelevant group of people because they are anti-civil rights. They are doing the bidding of the White House."

The two-day meeting publicly exposed for the first time the reorganized commission's rejection of certain traditional civil rights goals and revealed high tension among its eight board members.

Commissioners Mary Berry and Blandina Cardenas Ramirez, liberal holdovers from the previous commission who President Reagan had tried to fire, outspokenly dissented from the board's statement on quotas and also on other commission actions.

Besides rejecting the concept of quotas, the commission took action to narrow its role as a watchdog of the nation's discrimination practices.

It shied away from examining certain topics, for example by cancelling a study on Reagan

budget cuts at minority colleges. In voting new studies, it directed that they not be based on an assumption that discrimination is automatically to blame.

At a news conference, Chairman Clarence Pendleton acknowledged the commission had to set "a new direction" for the past.

"There will be opposition which is healthy," Pendleton said. "There seems to be a need to what we think is the country's civil rights agenda and (an indication) not to stray afar as I think the commission has done in the past."

However, Berry accused some of her colleagues of having a "closed mind."

"Ed Meese has got a right to be elated today," she said, referring to allegations by civil rights groups that the presidential aide helped stack the new commission with those in tune with Reagan's thinking. "The White House has its own civil rights commission just in time for the election of 1984."

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Firefighters tried to force resignation of lady co-worker

United Press International

IOWA CITY, Iowa — At least one firefighter tried pranks and the silent treatment to force the resignation of a female co-worker who won the right to

breast-feed her son at the firehouse, a colleague testified Tuesday.

Fireman Richard Allen said a male co-worker, Don Fabian, had warned others in the fire station not to talk to Linda Eaton

while on duty.

"How are we going to get of her if we talk to her?" Allen quoted Fabian as saying. "If I do (talk to her), we won't talk you."

Eaton, 31, has filed a \$940,000 suit against the city and top officials charging she was discriminated against when she won a 1979 court battle to breast-feed her son twice a day in the firehouse.

Fabian, who also took stand Tuesday, admitted wearing an "X" over Eaton's photo on department roster display and putting salt in her orange juice.

He denied cutting the fingers off her work gloves, the final incident that prompted Eaton's resignation in 1980.

Five firefighters so far have denied cutting the gloves and questioning by Eaton's attorney, Clara Oleson, who left the station conspicuously on the witness stand in front of Fabian's testimony.

Fabian testified he strived to maintain normal relations with Eaton. He said he and other firefighters addressed her cordially while on duty.

However, under cross-examination, Fabian said he and other firemen described Eaton with words like "dumb broad" and several obscenities when she was not around.

Allen, who described his relationship with Eaton as "friendly," also denied knowledge of the glove-cutting incident.

MSC INSIGHT

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