

BLAHOUS WILL BE APS CONGRESSIONAL SCIENTIST FELLOW IN 1989-90

The selection committee for APS Congressional Scientist Fellows looks for high scientific achievement, versatility and social awareness in its candidates. It found all three in the 1990 fellow, Charles (Chuck) P. Blahous III. Blahous will spend a year in Washington either on the staff of a member of Congress or working for a Congressional committee that deals with science policy issues.

Blahous received his undergraduate degree in 1985 from Princeton, where he was awarded the McKay Prize in physical chemistry. He recently received his PhD in computational chemical physics from the University of California at Berkeley.

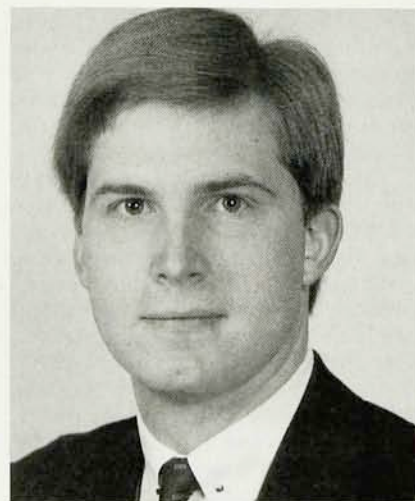
Blahous's thesis concerned the conformational potential energy surface of the cyclic $(\text{NH})_6$ molecule. In describing his research, he said he studied the $(\text{NH})_6$ system by means of the "cyclohexane treatment." In cyclohexane derivatives, moving substituents to different sites on the ring affects the ring's shape and energy. These changes shed light on the steric requirements of the substituents. Blahous studied $(\text{NH})_6$ conformations in a similar fashion—by in effect "moving lone pairs" around the ring and observing the results. The objective, he explained, was to contribute

to the conformational analysis of amino-type systems by revealing how much "space" the lone pair needs. The energetic materials Blahous studied are of more than just scientific interest—potentially they could be used as powerful conventional fuels, he said.

Henry F. Schaefer III, Blahous's thesis adviser, described Blahous as an "excellent young scientist" and his thesis as "brilliant." Schaefer also remarked on the breadth of his advisee's interests outside science and on his ability to convey them. "He was very successful at getting his colleagues to explore other aspects of culture, from Shakespeare to Faulkner to *The New York Times*," Schaefer said. He observed that science and scientists would benefit even if Blahous chose to remain in government work at the end of his fellowship term.

Blahous is an accomplished jazz pianist and trombonist, sometime disc jockey and Little League coach.

In a telephone interview Blahous said he viewed the Congressional fellowship as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have an impact on governmental decisions with scientific implications." Since maintenance of US competitiveness is one of his main



Charles P. Blahous III

concerns, he would be glad to work with a committee or member of Congress on allocating Federal research and development funds and on providing incentives for industry to use these monies wisely. On the other hand, Blahous said his day-to-day interests tended more toward foreign policy, and he was actually more likely to seek a position on a foreign relations committee dealing with international scientific issues such as arms control, technology transfer or

Search Committee for New Executive Secretary

A search committee has been formed for a new executive secretary of The American Physical Society, to succeed W. W. Havens Jr, who will retire at the end of 1990. Havens has been APS executive secretary since 1967.

The duties of the executive secretary, the senior management position at APS, can be summarized with deceptive ease. Together with the APS treasurer and the editor in chief, the executive secretary supervises the supporting staff, arranges meetings of the council and provides information

on established policies and procedures. He or she also oversees the scientific meetings of APS and relations with subunits (sections, divisions, topical groups and committees), as well as acting as APS's liaison with other scientific societies.

Headed by Val Fitch, who was APS president in 1987-88, the search committee seeks physicist candidates of significant reputation and with demonstrated managerial ability. The successful candidate must devote at least half of his or her time to APS

and—like other APS officers—should plan to continue part-time research, teaching or other professional activity.

The search committee will recommend a candidate to the council, which will make the final selection. The new executive secretary will have a term of five years, with renewal possible after review. The desired starting date is 1 September 1990. Inquiries, nominations and applications should be sent to Val Fitch, Jadwin Hall, Princeton University, P. O. Box 708, Princeton NJ 08544.