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DATE: April 20, 1998  
TO: NATIONAL COUNCIL SSMA OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
RE: Legislative Report #13

Congress returns from spring break this week, with a busy hearing schedule, including four hearings on Social Security issues -- on year 2000 computer prospects; fraud and abuse in the SSI program; SSA's justification for its FY 99 budget request; and proposals for individual savings accounts as part of SS reform. I will report on those next week, as well as on a hearing held last Friday on SSA financial management (at which SSA received bi-partisan commendations and Principal Deputy John Dyer and IG David Williams testified about the excellent results of the Price Waterhouse audit).

Ron Niesing will be in Washington this week as well, to brief GAO teams on the view from the field, and we have additional meetings on and off the Hill set up during his visit.

So before the hectic pace resumes, I take this quiet moment to offer a run down on some government-related websites in which SSMA members have expressed interest. I have re-visited the sites to make sure I have updated addresses (which have been simplified in most cases to [www.whatever.gov](http://www.whatever.gov)) and to note useful information offered.

**[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov) -- Library of Congress**

I am admittedly no internet enthusiast, but this is by far my favorite site. There are more research tools here than I could name -- from global legal info to foreign country studies to information on databases nationally. My favorite link is to the "American Memory Historical Collection." Those with legislative interests will find this an easy way to link to THOMAS: Legislative Information (direct address - <http://thomas.loc.gov>) to obtain the content and official status of major bills in Congress. Although it is useful to have the bill number, you can search by subject as well. (Note of caution: Often the legislative information contained is not up to date. I have found lags of longer than two weeks between when bills are amended in Committee action and when the amendments and new information are available online.)

**[www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov) -- General Accounting Office**

GAO documents by title, number or subject category; indexes by year; GAO daybook with daily announcements of new reports/testimony. Currently a special "Federal Management Issues"

report, available only online, can be accessed by unzipping PDF files. You can link to [www.gao.gov/decisions](http://www.gao.gov/decisions) for GAO Comptroller decisions.

[www.law.cornell.edu/uscode](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode) -- Cornell University site to obtain U.S. statutes contains all laws in force as of Jan. 16, 1996 (with some guidance re how to determine if changes have been made since then). Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, contains those that pertain to federal employees.

[www.access.gpo.gov](http://www.access.gpo.gov) -- Government Printing Office

By clicking on "Documents in GPO WAIS Database" and then clicking on "CFR -- Specific procedures" or "Federal Register" you can search 1998 and past year editions of the Federal Register and some volumes of the Code of Federal Regulations. Volume 5, Administrative Personnel, contains the regulations attendant to Title 5 statutes pertaining to federal employees. (The last time I checked, Volume 5 was not yet all online yet.)

[www.mspb.gov](http://www.mspb.gov) -- Merit System Protection Board

Contains information on MSPB functions and Board Members, MSPB decisions, policy and evaluation reports, forms and information on publications. Currently contains their report, "The Changing Federal Workplace: Employee Perspectives," based on a survey of 10,000 federal employees regarding the impact of downsizing and reinvention.

[www.flra.gov](http://www.flra.gov) -- Federal Labor Relations Authority

Contains lots of definitional/explanatory material; case summaries and decisions from 1994 to the present; FLRA Bulletins from 1996 to the present; links to related sites at the Dept. of Labor, EEOC, National Labor Relations Board, Special Counsel, etc.

[www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov) -- Office of Personnel Management's Homepage

Contains salary tables, "Fact Book" workforce statistics, OPM's Federal Register announcements, news releases and information on how to contact OPM; links to the White House and NPR sites, as well as to [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) -- OPM's Federal Job Listings.

[www.npr.gov](http://www.npr.gov) -- National Partnership for Reinvention Homepage

Currently contains descriptions of the re-invented NPR work teams, announcements, speeches, information on reinvention award winners, future reinvention plans. Messages from Vice President Gore include one from March 2 thanking you for making reinventing government "the longest-running and most successful government reform effort in history." There is a "Managing for Results" link which includes Administration testimony on the Gov. Performance and Results Act, the content of strategic plans by agency. There is a PBO(Performance Based Organization) webpage (not updated since last year) which answers questions: What is a PBO? What agencies are candidates? etc.

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

Waving American flags welcome you to the White House. You can find out how to e-mail the President and Vice President, visit "The Virtual Library" to search documents, get press briefings and releases in "The Briefing Room," or click on the substance of the President's weekly Saturday radio address. The President's remarks on Social Security in Kansas City 4/7 are under "What's New at the White House."

**Congress:**

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)-- Using menu, you can access homepages of all Senators and Representatives as well as link to every Committee in each chamber for press releases, hearing schedules and other committee news. Be prepared to be disappointed if you are looking for timely information. Many committee sites are not kept up. The House Ways and Means Comm. site -- where you will find the Social Security Subcommittee -- is usually up to date, whereas the Senate Finance Committee -- where you will find the Senate counterpart Social Security Subcommittee -- seems to go sometimes for months without an update. The Senate Aging Committee, which also conducts hearings pertaining to Social Security programs, has no House counterpart. For legislative activities on many federal employee and government management issues, link to the House Government Reform Committee (and then the Civil Service Subcommittee or the Government Management Subcommittee) and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee (and then International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee).

**Misc:**

[www.fedmanager.com](http://www.fedmanager.com) -- As previously reported, Don Mace and Jerry Shaw offer a free newsletter for managers in federal government. A survey to identify problems with the EEO process, developed by some members of the Coalition for Effective Change, is to appear soon with this newsletter with a request that it be completed and returned via e-mail, FAX or mail. The survey includes opportunities for respondents to comment and identify EEO problems they feel are not addressed in the survey's short answer questions.

I'll pass along other site addresses of interest as I remember or run across them.

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