The empirical analysis included in this piece is conducted using the Event File dataset (APDesignSpellData.xls) described above with three changes:

1) We took advantage of updates made to the dataset described above. In particular, we drop agencies that now appear as if they should have been excluded and we recode some agencies as created by executive action that were originally coded as created by statute (see Updates and Notes above). We also fix an error in the start data for the Administration for Native Americans.

2) We added some additional variables including data on regulatory agencies and data on budget surpluses and deficits adjusted for inflation. The variables are described below:

1. warrenreg–Agencies with regulatory responsibilities. Warren, Melinda. 2000. Federal Regulatory Spending Reaches a New Height: An Analysis of the Budget of the U.S. Government for the Year 2001. St. Louis, MO: Center for the Study of American Business, Washington University; USGM. I code all agencies listed in the Center for the Study of American Business report as agencies with regulatory functions.
2. govrecpt—Federal revenues in billions of dollars.
3. surplusnom—nominal federal government surplus in billions of dollars.
4. urbancpi—Consumer price index for urban areas.
5. imfdeflt—International Monetary Fund price deflator to adjust nominal dollars to account for inflation.
6. pcchgcpi—Percentage change in the consumer price index.
7. pcchgimf—Percentage change in the IMF price deflator.
8. realsurplusimf—Federal surplus in real billions of dollars.

The source for the latter variables are: U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office; Economic Report of the President. Various years. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.

3) The data set drops all observations from temporary agencies (variable name: temporar—171 observations) and for courts (10439—16 observations; 10458—10 observations) with the exception of 10152 (US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces) which was an oversight. The inclusion or exclusion of 10152 does not appear to alter the results.

The dataset for the paper can be reconstructed using the APDesignSpellData.xls file above and adding the additional variables by hand but I would recommend using the data files attached below in both Stata (.dta) and Excel (.xls) formats which include the relevant changes.