

The guidepost concept attempts to tie the average increase in productivity for the economy as a whole to a sanctioned rate of increase for wages. From 1964 to 1966, 3.2 percent was the magic number to be applied to all contract negotiations, irrespective of conditions in each industry. The CEA has abandoned the explicit 3.2 percent in favor of an implicit 5.5 percent ceiling—although the Chairman of the Council acknowledged in testimony before the Joint Economic Committee that he thought a 3.2 percent figure would be “about” the right guidepost figure, if one had been published for 1968.

We reject any and all such “numbers games” by dint of which an attempted uniformity is to be imposed on a richly variegated economy. We in the Communications Workers of America are active and avowed supporters of that economy, of the economic freedom which is integral to it, and of free collective bargaining, a critical ingredient in assuring that the fruits of our economy return to those who have produced them.