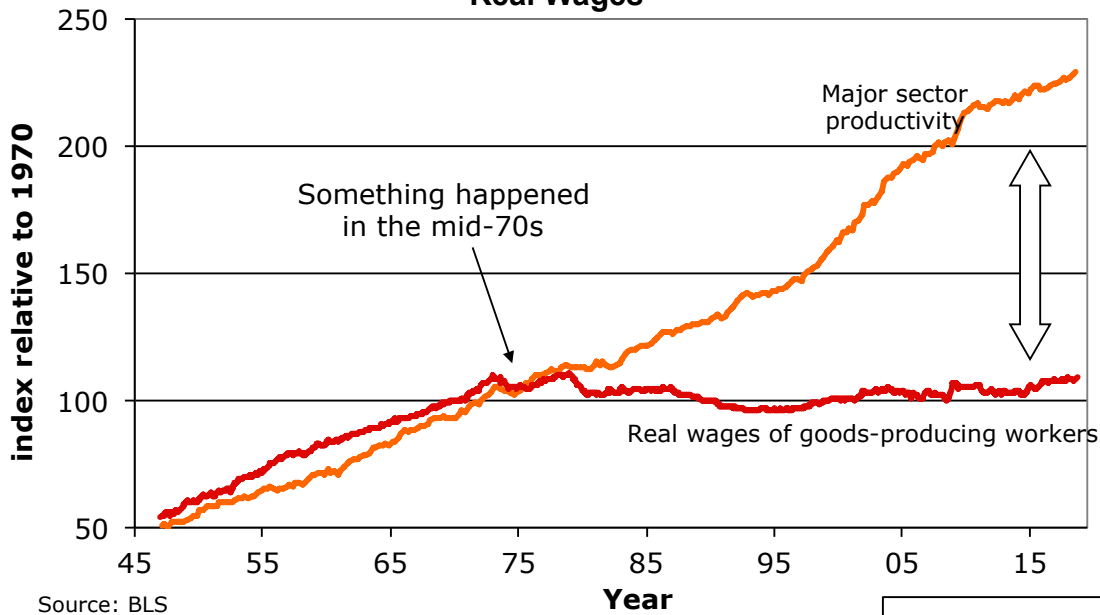


The Changing Nature of Labor Policy in Washington

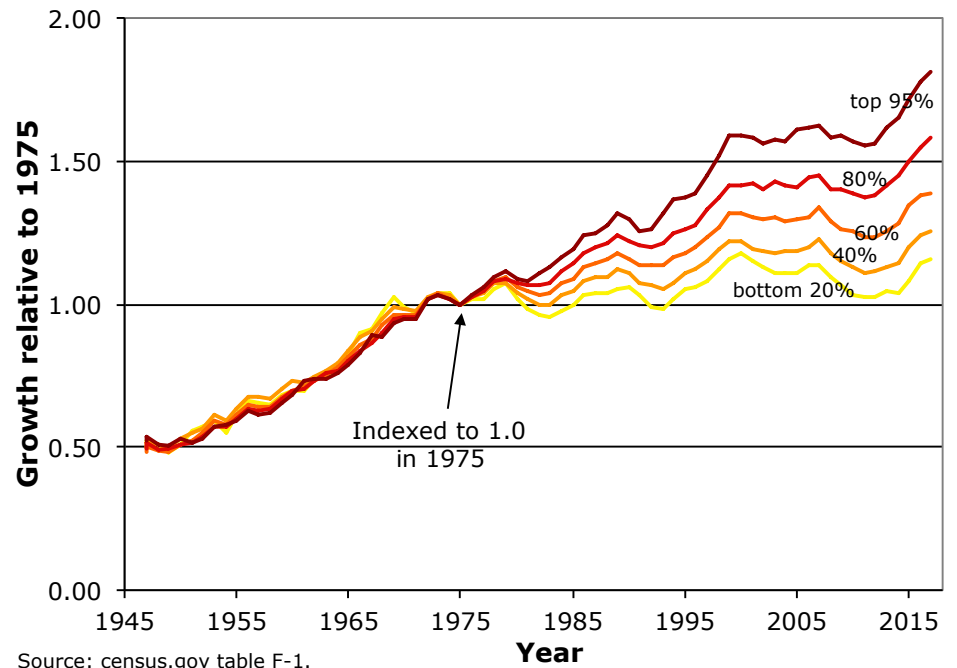
Stan Sorscher, SPEEA
stans@speea.org
206 255 4393

Re-Wire Policy Conference
December 13, 2018

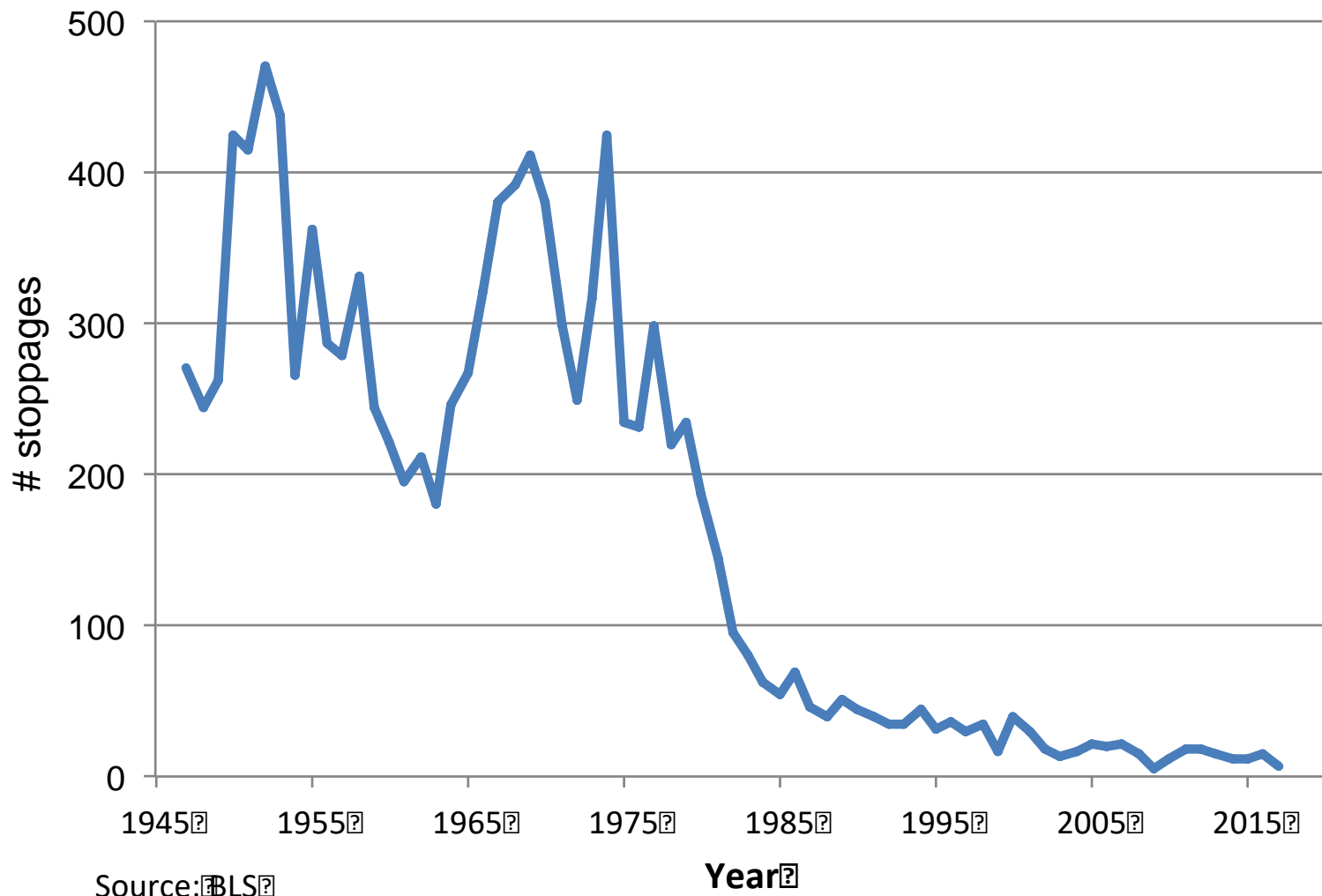
Productivity and Real Wages



Real Family income relative to 1975



stoppages of 1000 or more workers



Source: BLS

Post-war era

- Gains shared
- Purpose of an economy is to raise living standards
- Stakeholder value
- Higher living standards
- Labor - legitimate institution of civil society

Current era

- Gains go to the top
- Make business succeed
- Shareholder value
- Lower cost
- Labor - weak and precarious

Some consequences

- Weaker consumption, higher debt
- Loss of trust in government and institutions
- Less social cohesion
- Mistrust of globalization

Local responses

- \$15 minimum wage
- Paid sick leave
- Teacher strikes in red states
- Workforce training, apprenticeships, lifelong learning
- Immigration policies as workforce issues