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Bell: Productivity, Education Linked

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Increased productivity on the part of the nation's businesses must go hand in hand with improvements in the nation's education system, Education Secretary Terrell H. Bell said here today.

Bell linked the two in remarks prepared for delivery at the White House Conference on Productivity being held at St. Louis University.

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"One of the reasons for the decline in American productivity these last 10 years has been related to the slow but steady deterioration of the American educational system over the last quarter century," Bell said. "The societal turmoil of the '60s and '70s have borne some bitter fruit."

Bell cited, by contrast, the experience in Japan. He said the effectiveness of its schools is one relatively neglected reason for the country's high productivity.

"By comparison, our own schools are failing to provide our young people with the preparation they need to reach their full productive potential," he said. "Given the magnitude of the problem, the

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