February 2, 1998

Dear Colleague:

We hope you can attend a conference we are planning to hold at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis on October 9 and 10, 1998. The sponsors of this conference are the Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, the Bradley Policy Research Center at the University of Rochester, and the Program for Dynamic Economics at UCLA.

For this conference we hope to put together a collection of papers that share one, or possibly two, fairly well-defined themes. One potential theme is the defining and measuring of productivity, as well as theorizing about the differences in productivity across industries, sectors, and countries. Some potential issues in the measurement of productivity are studies of the human capital input, industry studies across countries (such as the recent McKinsey studies), examining the large measured productivity differences across agriculture and manufacturing, measurement of productivity during the interwar period and during WWII, looking at large productivity movements within industries over time, and so on. We encourage the submission of papers outside this theme as these may suggest a second interesting theme.

If you are interested in presenting research at the conference, please send materials to either Edward Prescott or Jim Schmitz at the addresses below. We would prefer papers but are willing to consider brief descriptions of the research. We would like to see such materials as early as possible but no later than JUNE 1, 1998.

We can fund the trips of paper presenters and their discussants and possibly a few others. We hope to see you in Minneapolis in October.

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