

# USC scholar writes book

## Author claims Pearl Harbor was not complete surprise

From Staff Reports

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was not a complete surprise to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, according to USC foreign policy professor Robert Thompson in his new book, *A Time for War: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Path to Pearl Harbor*.

The book coincided with the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which marked the United States' entry into World War II.

"The Japanese had reason to believe we were planning to attack them," Thompson said. "They saw their attack on Pearl Harbor as a pre-emptive strike."

Through extensive research at the FDR Library, the Hoover Institute, the MacArthur Library, and the Library of Congress, Thompson found evidence that Roosevelt forced Germany and Japan to go to war with the United States.

"Roosevelt saw those countries as outlaw states de-

termined to overturn world order," Thompson said. "But Americans were not convinced we had to go to war. The only way to change their attitude was for Japan to attack us first."

"Roosevelt provoked the war by slapping strict embargoes on the Japanese, including an oil embargo that left them without any oil," he said. "The Japanese also found out that the U.S. was planning to firebomb them in early 1942."

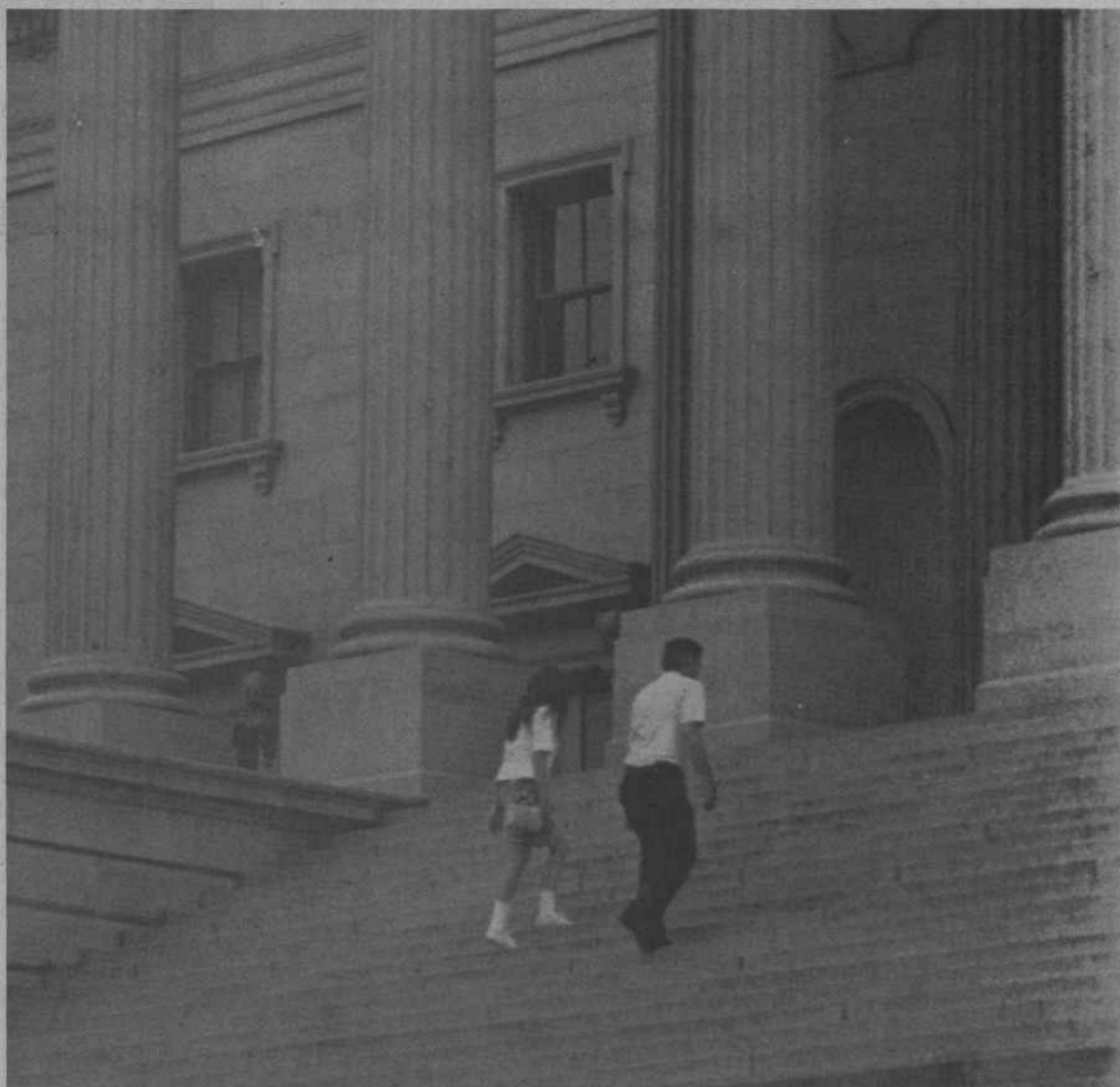
Thompson also found proof that members of the Roosevelt administration were warned that Japan was planning to bomb the United States.

*A Time For War* has been well received by critics, including Publishers Weekly, which wrote, "This book is the clearest exposition so far of the revisionist theory of U.S. provocation of Germany and Japan."

Thompson, a USC faculty member since 1970, began to question the events involving the U.S. entry into World War II several years ago. He has also written *Pledge to Destiny: Charles De Gaulle and the Rise of the Free French* and a textbook on modern international relations.

He is working on a book on the Cuban missile crisis.

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Renee Gibson/The Gamecock

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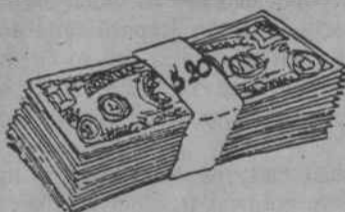
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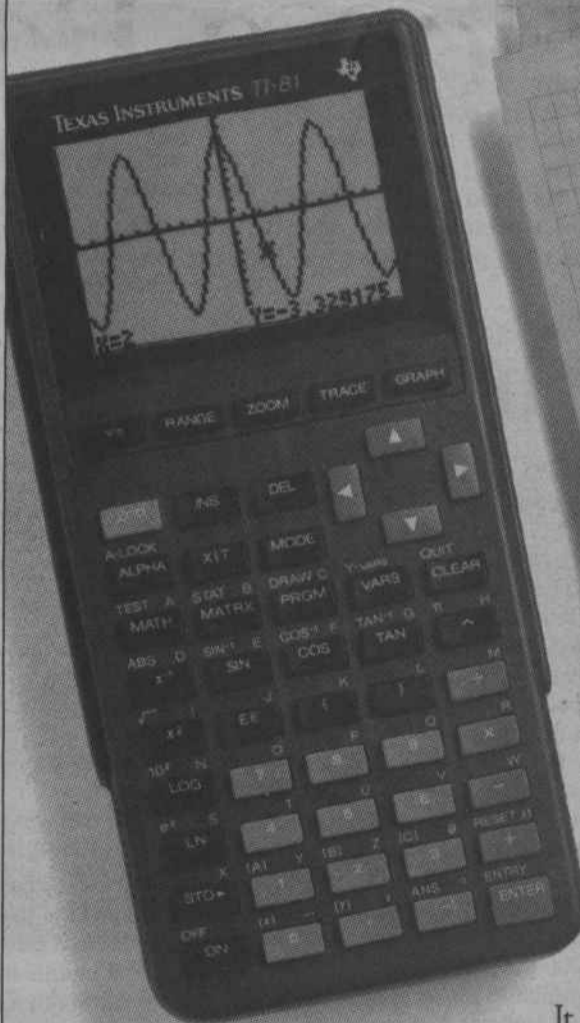
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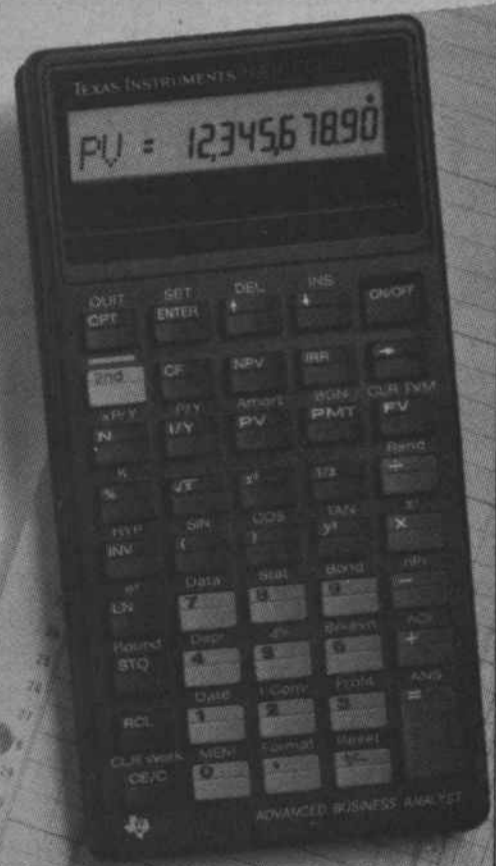
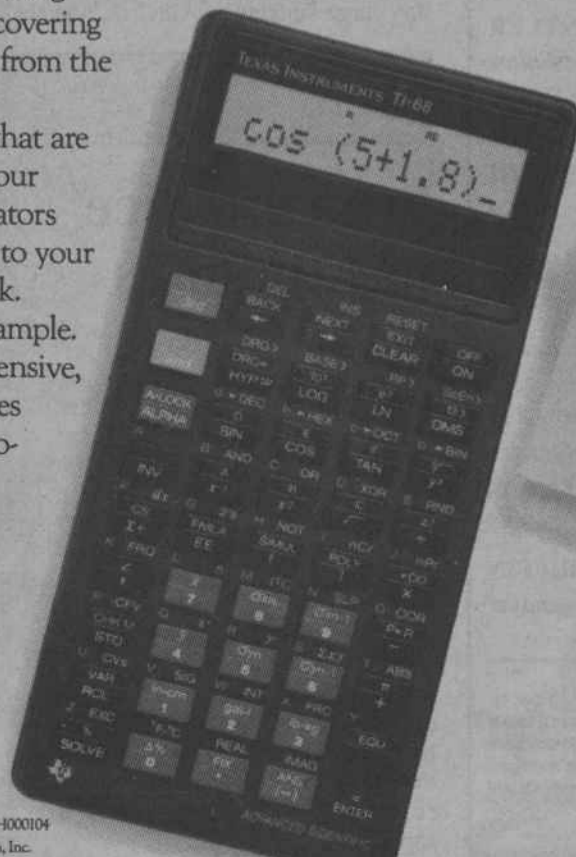
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