the Military branch itself, "senior Air Force officials" are quoted in the article as being the spokesmen for the Military elites. However, the interesting thing to note here is that because of the competing interests in the economic branch the military branch did not take an outstanding step in either direction, but rather chose to let the other two branches argue and decide. The third and final group is the Political elites personified in the bodies of Senator Christopher Bond, as well as Senator John McCain. Each of these men are clearly in the highest places of office for creating this policy, and both having pressure from the Economic branch, as well as the Military branch to create this policy. In this instance, there could hardly be a contention that the will of the people, by and through its interest groups, was heard, or even argued. The article does not mention any particular interest group, nor does it attribute any weight of the decision to any interest group. However, for the sake of argument, let's assume interest groups were involved. It could not be asserted that interest groups were the main sources of the bill, as the bill was clearly proposed by an individual (Senator Bond). Interest groups had little if any influence over the Military, and little influence over the product that was being produced by Boeing Co. This leads us to the main focus of the policy itself.

The ultimate product of the policy is one that is deeply centered around the military and, concordantly, the very means of keeping all three groups in power. As the cycle goes, the Economic branch (i.e. Boeing Co.) supplies F-15's to the Military branch (i.e. "senior Air Force officials) through the monetary and budgetary allowance of the Political branch (i.e. Senators Bond and McCain). This is, in effect, the quintessential model to describe the most direct way that the Power Elites control. Of course, the theory does not end with this particular example, but rather, it begins with this example as the premise as to why this triangle of top officials control the power in governmental operations. Here we see again that the product of the policy was directly controlled by the top officials in government. The best argument for the pluralist theory in this case is one that relies on an *indirect* influence on the government, inasmuch as the interest groups that elect the senators and provide taxes to pay for the allowance of money. However, this only allows for a very small influence on the grand scheme of things. Keeping all of this in mind, the final and perhaps most important issue that needs to be addressed is that of the actual reason for the policy.

A review of the actual reasons this policy exists is now needed, in order to best define which theory this policy fits into. The policy was created by a Senator to provide arms, more specifically F-14 Jets, to the United States military. The people as a whole have virtually no objective reason to want this policy to exist. The only interest group that could provide any insight as to why the American people would want this policy is perhaps one that argues for a stronger military. Although, this contention is flawed in this particular case, as the want for a stronger military, at least one would think, would seem to be consistent with wanting the newest and most technologically advanced equipment available. As

the article points out, the proposed policy is for the older, less expensive F-14 Jets, and not the newer, more advanced F-22 Jets. Therefore, it could be construed that this policy is not necessarily to provide the best equipment to defend the nation, but rather it is a reflection of a compromise between all three Elitist branches to cooperate for the betterment of all elitists. This does not comport with what Pluralist theory suggests, in that it has virtually nothing to do with interest groups, or the democratic process itself.

Therefore, it must be concluded that although the policy may have been indirectly influenced by the pluralist theory, the controlling theory in this case is that of C. Wright Mills' "Power Elite." The Power Elite theory explains why the key players of this policy are who they are, and why they hold so much influence in the decision making process behind this policy. It further explains why the product of the policy is one that has little significance to the public as a whole, and has much more interest from the top officials of the country. It finally explains the mere existence of the bill itself, not as a direct result of the democratic process, but as a compromise between the individuals that hold the most power in the country. It can further be said that the theory of the "Power Elite" can be an accurate description of the policy making process that the United States adopts as evidenced and documented by the facts described in Dan Morgan's article.