

Chapter 5

Constitutional Protection Against External Costs and Costs of Power Abuse

In this chapter, we complete our discussion of a constitution by considering several provisions that would help deal with the external costs of collective decision-making and the costs of power abuse. These provisions, in order of presentation, are the separation of the branches of the government, provisions relating to information about government activities, rules on vote-buying, and rules against profiteering. Additional constitutional provisions, including those that allowing for constitutional change, are also described. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the possibility that the constitution may be a much less powerful protection against the external costs and costs of power abuse than members of a collective hope.