The purpose of this thesis is to examine the role that the United States Congress has played in the last half century in monitoring controversial music. There has always been a strong relationship between music and politics. The music of the Civil Rights Movement and the protest songs of the Vietnam War are prime examples. A brief summary provides a backdrop to the central focus of the thesis: congressional actions and hearings about music that took place in the 1980s. A number of the questions that will be addressed include the following: What was the context in which these events took place? What prompted the actions taken by Congress? What were the political and social/cultural contexts of the time? Which artists and what genres of music were being criticized? What was the outcome of the hearings in terms of public policy? What was the response of the music industry and of individual artists?

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A music video for the song 'We're Not Gonna Take It' by Twisted Sister. The father goes to the boy's bedroom and scolds his son for being interested only in his guitar and Twisted Sister music. At the last line of the father's overlong speech, he says "What do you want to do with your life?", to which the son replies "I Wanna Rock!" with a voice strikingly similar to that of director Marty Callner, after which he strums his guitar and causes a blast so powerful it knocks the father out of a nearby window. The boy then transforms into Snider and the music begins. Written by Peter-Patrick76 (peter-patrick@mail.com).