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D.I. - The Suburbia Sessions 1983 {MVD} Thanks to the guys at *Flipside* zine, this features D.I. right after the band had been featured in the 'Suburbia' film.

It's filmed live at Sherpa Studios, Fullerton, California back in 1983 and features 10 songs - although there is an unlisted and abandoned take of 'Spiritual Law' long before the version that closes the practice session here. Of the tracks you get a fantastic USHC-laced take on THE STOOGES' 'Loose' and a choice bastardisation of THE SWEETS' 'Ballroom Blitz' with lyrics rewritten to communicate to the disenfranchised Reagan generation - hence "We'll blow your country to bits". Of the band's own songs there's the classic 'Hang 10 In East Berlin', the dramatic 'Richard Hung Himself' and 'Guns'. Visually it's not too inspiring - I mean - bottom line is a band practicing in front of a camera and a couple of people. Vocalist Casey Royer attempts a few Jack Grisham-

esque theatrics and there is plenty of that popular band practice indecision: "What shall we play next?"

There is an additional half-hour of interview footage that starts off in the parking lot behind the studio. This says little but shows the band in kinda jovial spirits and ends with a photo shoot. From there they head back into the practice room - and then there are drop outs in sound. I'm guessing this is part of the original video tape. The snippets of dialogue that come through see the band joking and explaining a few song titles. Then there's talk of the 'Suburbia' film, SOCIAL DISTORTION and finally Reagan. The drop outs really do plague the interview though - which is a shame - the band seem affable and more than willing to talk, but fail to really hold the interest as a drop-out soon occurs.

Given the footage is 20+ years old and recorded on video tape (I assume), the actual visual quality has a genuine, grainy and slightly subversive feel about it when compared with the slightly cold digital filming of today. The sound quality of the music is passable while retaining a claustrophobic intimacy (and as anyone who has seen a videoed band practice recorded with just a camera will tell you - that is as good as it gets!).

Certainly a DVD for those who are fans already or those who have an affection for classic USHC. It's certainly one that, musically, I savoured.

- Steve S