SUICIDES
OF GERMAN
JEWISH GAIN

Nazi 20 Per Cent Levy
Fortunes Above $2,000
Adds To Troubles
FOREIGN HEBREWS
GIVEN EXEMPTION
Order Allows Insurance
Payments To Be Used
To Settle Fines

BERLIN, Nov. 23—(AP)—A Nazi
levy of 20 per cent on Jewish for-
tunes above $2,000 placed a new di-
llemma before hard-pressed Jews
Wednesday while reports of Jewish
suicides increased.

Many of the wealthier Jews, lack-
ing cash to pay the fine, realized
they would have to let real property
go at whatever prices they could
get, thus making it financially diffi-
cult or impossible for them to emi-
igrate.

Some had to choose whether to
remain in Germany until after Aug.
15, 1939, when the last payment of
the penalty is due, or to leave im-
mediately and abandon all their
property to the Nazis. In that case,
they understood, emigration would
be impossible without help.

Among the mounting reports of
suicides were cases of Jews with
Aryan wives who killed themselves
to relieve wives of stigma and to
enable them to collect life insur-
ance.

The levy is to pay the $400,000,000
fine imposed on Jews for the assassi-
nation of Ernst von Rath, secre-
tary in the German embassy in
Paris, by a young Polish Jew.

A decree signed by Finance Min-
ister Count Leitz Schwerin-Krosigk,
provided:

A contribution of 1,600,000,000
Reichsmarks ($400,000,000) will be
collected from German Jews and
those Jews without nationality in
the form of a tax levy on their for-
tune.

"Foreign Jews are exempted from
the levy. The levy will not be im-
pired in the entire fortune, after
deduction of all liabilities, does not
exceed 3,000 Reichsmarks ($2,000)."

Payments are to be made to the
state treasury in four equal install-
ments due Dec. 15, Feb. 15, 1939,
May 15 and Aug. 15, without further
notice. Further penalties were pro-
vided for non-compliance.

This was considered part of "the
last chapter of the Jewish question
in Germany," in which Propaganda
Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels
warned there would be no mercy
until the Hebrew is driven from
German life.

Nowhere in authority could say
how Jews were subject to the levy.

In Berlin, 33,000 Jews are listed
as owning more than 5,000 marks
under the April 26 regulation, which
provided Jews must declare their
possessions to the government.

One aspect cheered some persons
—the provision whereby compensa-
tion paid by insurance companies
for breakage during the Nov. 10
anti-Semitism might be applied to
ward the billion-mark penalty. Ti-
tle to such claims has passed to the
government by a decree of Field
Marshall Hermann Wilhelm Goering
Nov. 12, but insurance companies
were instructed Wednesday to pay
those claims in the billion-mark fund.