

A comparison of the two charts showing the percentage of those listed in bankruptcy schedules and those filing suits in sessions court is as follows:

Type of creditor	Percent of suits filed	Percent of listings in bankruptcy
Medical.....	22.5	22.3
Loan and finance.....	16.2	19.6
Clothing.....	16.1	11.7
Furniture and appliance.....	11.8	11.4
Automotive.....	9.6	9.5
Food.....	5.2	6.2
Jewelry.....	4.3	3.4
All others.....	14.3	15.9
Total.....	100.0	100.0

The bankruptcy law is being badly abused in Chattanooga and many persons are recklessly filing petitions with little or no regard to the serious moral and financial consequences of their future.

This is reported in a study made by the Retail Credit Men's Association a summary of which was released for publication.

George W. Lundy, manager of the credit bureau, explained that because of the upward trend in bankruptcies being filed in this federal district and the wide publicity being given to this "unfortunate" situation the president of the association appointed a committee to make a study of the matter for the benefit of its members.

The committee is composed of C. R. Belcher, president, Citizens Savings & Loan Corp.; R. B. Brotbeck, credit manager, Miller Bros. Co.; Walter P. Coppedge, senior vice president of the American National Bank and Trust Co.; Leslie L. Hudson, vice president, Johnson Tire Co. and president of the association, Lundy, secretary of the association and credit bureau manager, and John Parry, vice president of Fowler Bros. Co.

These persons represent a cross-section of the credit grantors in the community, Lundy pointed out. The purpose of the study was to determine the causes of the increase in the number of cases being filed and to learn why, in a period of relatively low unemployment and high prosperity, bankruptcies were not decreasing, as it would normally appear they should, he continued.

A table given in the report analyzes a total of 200 bankruptcy petitions involving total liabilities of \$585,270.33 and 3,368 creditors.

In first place were medical creditors numbering 770, or 22.3 per cent of the total. The average account was \$80.68 and the total amount \$62,124.81. Second in number but first in dollars and cents involved were 657 finance companies listing a total of \$239,048.90, or an average of \$363.85.

Another table shows that of 20 petitions the average amount of liability per petitioner was \$2,900, but that 10 percent of the cases showed only a small amount of debt ranging from \$299.13 to \$728.

Another table shows that 56 per cent of the 200 petitions were for more than \$2,000 each. Thirty-nine had liabilities of less than \$1,000 and 73 owed from \$1,000 to \$2,000 each.

MEDICAL CREDITORS SUE

A fourth table showed that of creditors in sessions court, the largest number—3,632—or 22.5 per cent of a total of 16,209, involved medical creditors. The total amount of suits was \$217,794.88 of an average medical suit of \$59.96. Second in number of suits and first in amount involved were those of loan and finance companies with 2,624 suits for \$374,108.89 or an average of \$142.60.

A fifth table compares suits filed in sessions court with listings in bankruptcy. Medical suits represented 22.5 of the total and medical listings in bankruptcy were 22.3 per cent, while 16.2 per cent of the suits listings finance companies accounted for 19.6 per cent of the bankruptcy listings.

"It is difficult to understand why more people are seeking relief from debts during times when personal savings are at an all-time high figure, when savings and loan associations report the highest amount of share accounts, in the history of such institutions, when wages and salaries are at a high level,