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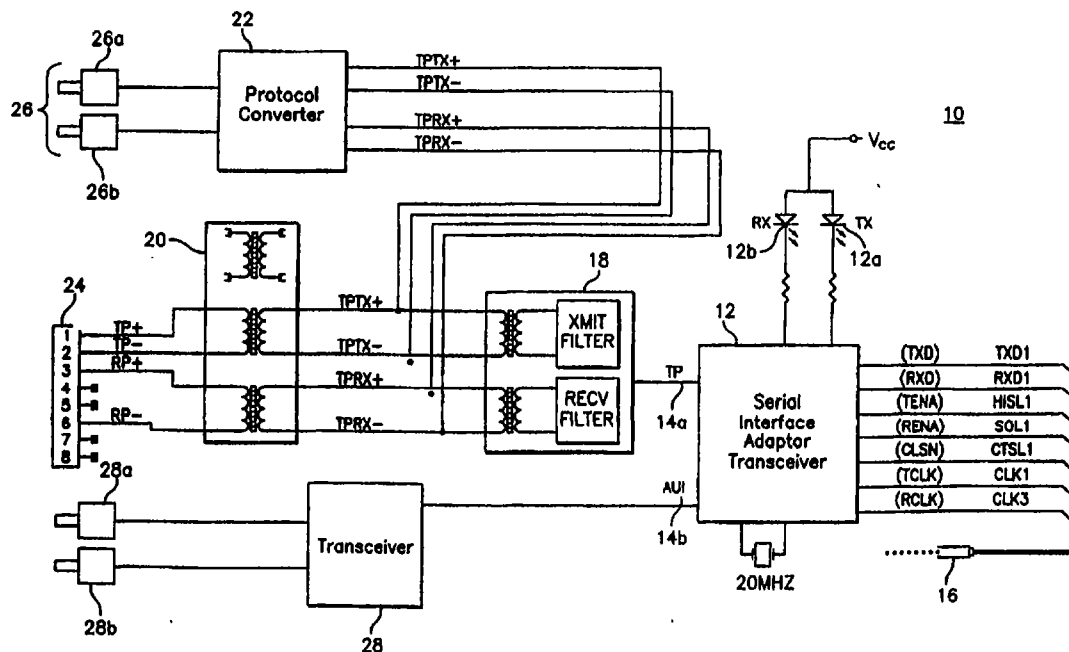
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(54) Title: REDUNDANT COMMUNICATIONS IN A PROTECTIVE RELAY



(57) Abstract

A redundant communications scheme for a protective relay (12) which allows high speed, reliable, fault tolerant communications between peer protective devices in a power distribution network. Communication over a selectable primary communication channel (14a) are interrupted and switched to a secondary communication channel (14b), which can operate according to a different communication protocol, when a fault is detected on the primary communication channel. The fault detection and switching is performed transparently to the main protective relay processor (16).