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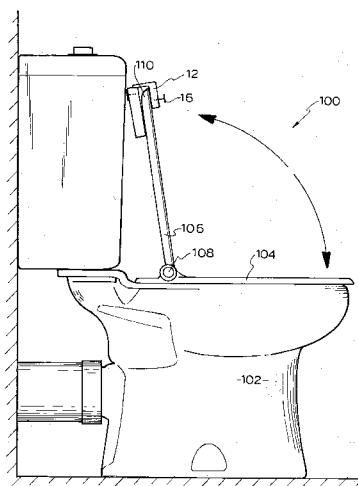


FIG. 11

(57) Abstract: An actuator includes first and second means (16, 18) for shifting, and those means are pistons, located within first and second components respectively, such that when the actuator is fitted over toilet lid (106) each piston (16, 18) extends in substantially opposite directions. The first shifting means (16) is activated upon the sensor detecting a predetermined condition, such as a hand passing over the sensor and shifts the position of the seat (104) from the raised position such that the centre of gravity is shifted past vertical, thereby causing the seat to shift to the lowered position. The second shifting means (18) is triggered after a predetermined time, for example one second, to cause the toilet seat lid (106) to be moved from the raised position such that the centre of gravity is shifted past vertical, thereby causing the lid (106) to shift to the lowered position to be substantially flush with the toilet seat (104).

