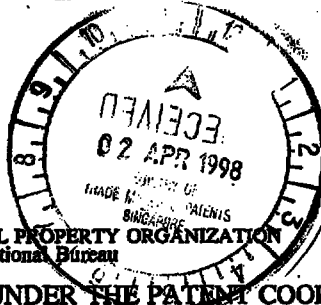


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(54) Title: **IMPROVED DROP SAFE**

(57) Abstract

A drop safe (16) for receiving and temporarily storing currency or other valuables from a cash register or point-of-sale terminal. The drop safe uses bill acceptors (52-53) to transfer cash into sealed cassettes (58, 59) within the safe. An envelope drop assembly (54) allows transferring into the safe currency or non-cash items not accepted by the acceptor. The drop safe door (35) has a door control assembly (34), including a gas spring (47) to counterbalance the weight of the door for controlled movement during opening. The drop safe includes a processor (154) programmed to control the unlocking operation and to maintain and produce various reports of deposits into the safe, enabling easy correlation of those deposits with business-day operation of the drop safe.

