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with international search report.(54) Title: **COIN HOPPER MEASUREMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEM**

(57) Abstract

The present invention provides a weighing apparatus for weighing coins accumulated in a coin hopper (10) using a load cell (12). By periodically monitoring the hopper and automatically calculating the number of coins in the hopper, theft of coins and other irregularities can be easily and timely detected. The unauthorized removal of coins during an actual or purported maintenance procedure can be detected by determining a count of coins before a hopper access door (2) is opened, counting the number of coins once the door is closed, and using those two counts to determine the change in the number of coins in the hopper. In a preferred embodiment, the identity of the person opening the hopper door and the time which the hopper door is opened and closed are recorded, along with any detected discrepancy in coin count.

