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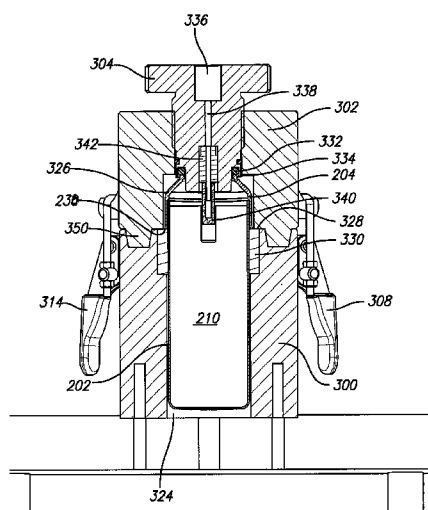


FIG. 11

(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method which includes placing an HEU containing compacted carbon particles within a cavity defined within a fixture and connecting a source of carbon dioxide gas under pressure to the fixture and to the HEU for flooding the carbon particles within the HEU with the carbon dioxide gas under pressure for a predetermined period of time sufficient to totally purge the trapped air contained within the HEU and then placing a cover or cap on the HEU to retain the residual head of carbon dioxide gas on the carbon particles until the gassing cycle is accomplished.