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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/18990 (22) International Filing Date: 10 September 1998 (10.09.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/928,266 12 September 1997 (12.09.97) US 09/050,806 30 March 1998 (30.03.98) US (71) Applicant: SOUTHC0, INC. [US/US]; 210 North Brinton Lake Road, Concordville, PA 19331 (US). (72) Inventors: ANTONUCCI, Jeffrey, L.; 7 Bearcroft Avenue, Great Meadow, Warndon, Worcester WR4 0DR (GB). ULISSE, Ralph, C.; Apartment P-305, 620 Ronald Avenue, Glassboro, NJ 08028 (US). PINKOW, Christopher, J.; 151 South Bishop Avenue, Secane, PA 19018 (US). (74) Agents: BONINI, Frank, J., Jr. et al.; Paul & Paul, 2900 Two Thousand Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (US).			(81) Designated States: AT, AU, BR, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, HU, ID, IL, JP, KR, LU, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RU, SE, SG, SI, TR, UA, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

A pawl latch assembly (10) with a spring locking member (53) having its own internal spring force for enabling a force from a handle (11) of the assembly to be transmitted to a pawl (28) to engage or disengage a keeper member (100) for opening and closing of the latch, and further having a lock (23) for securing the latch against unauthorized opening.