



US005767897A

United States Patent [19]

[11] Patent Number: **5,767,897**

Howell

[45] Date of Patent: **Jun. 16, 1998**

[54] VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM

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[73] Assignee: **PictureTel Corporation**, Danvers, Mass.

[21] Appl. No.: **332,097**

[22] Filed: **Oct. 31, 1994**

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **H04N 7/15**

[52] U.S. Cl. **348/15; 379/93.21; 379/93.19**

[58] Field of Search 348/15, 14, 16, 348/17, 18, 19; 379/96, 93.17, 93.19, 93.21; 370/62; 395/330; 345/1, 127, 130

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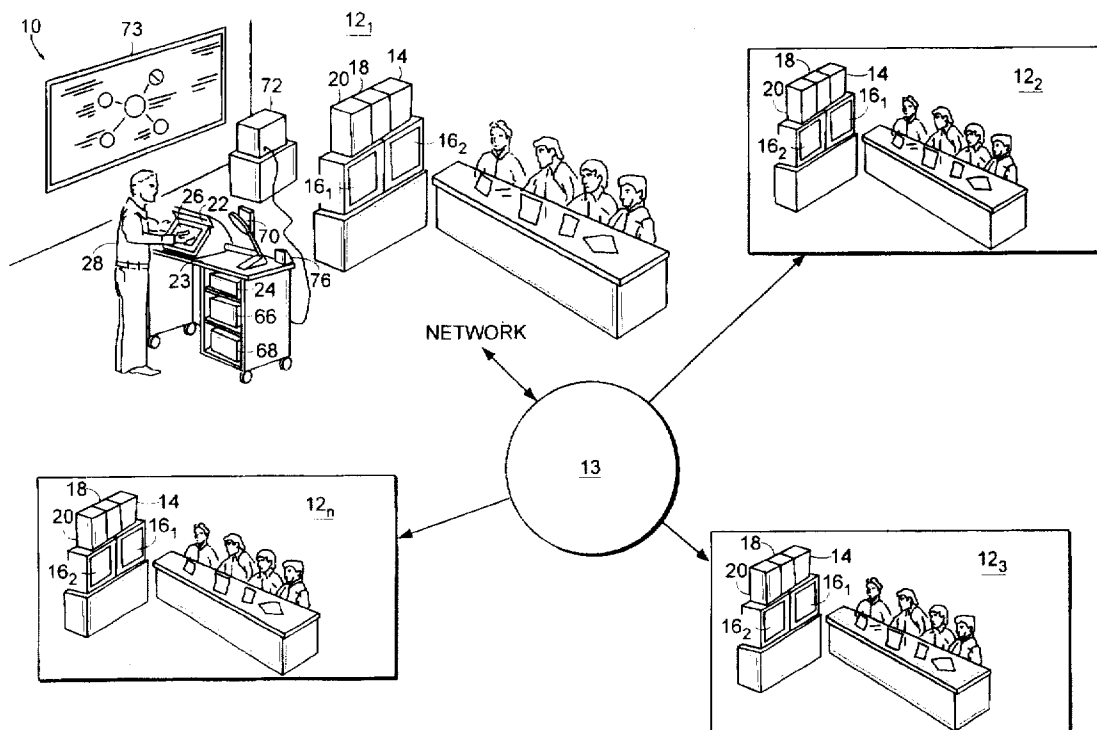
Primary Examiner—Stella Woo

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Fish & Richardson P.C.

[57] ABSTRACT

A video conferencing system wherein a director controller is adapted for disposition on a lecture podium. The controller includes an interconnected control section and a video display section for controlling the distribution of generated audio and video information signals among a local and remote sites selectively in accordance with command signals fed to the controller by a podium speaker. The system is adapted to operate in one of two operating modes: a "Main-screen" mode and a "Mark-up" mode. In the "Main-screen" mode, the video display section is made up of two display areas; a "presentation" display area, and a "preview" display area. The "presentation" display area displays the video information which typically is currently being viewed by the audience/participants at the remote and local sites. The "preview" video display area is privately viewable by the podium speaker, displays video information signals from a second podium speaker selected one of the video sources. In the "Mark-up" mode, the "preview" area is removed and the size of the "presentation" area is increased. The image in the enlarged "presentation" area is adapted for editing/annotation by the podium speaker. The edited/annotated image is distributed to the local and remote sites.

67 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



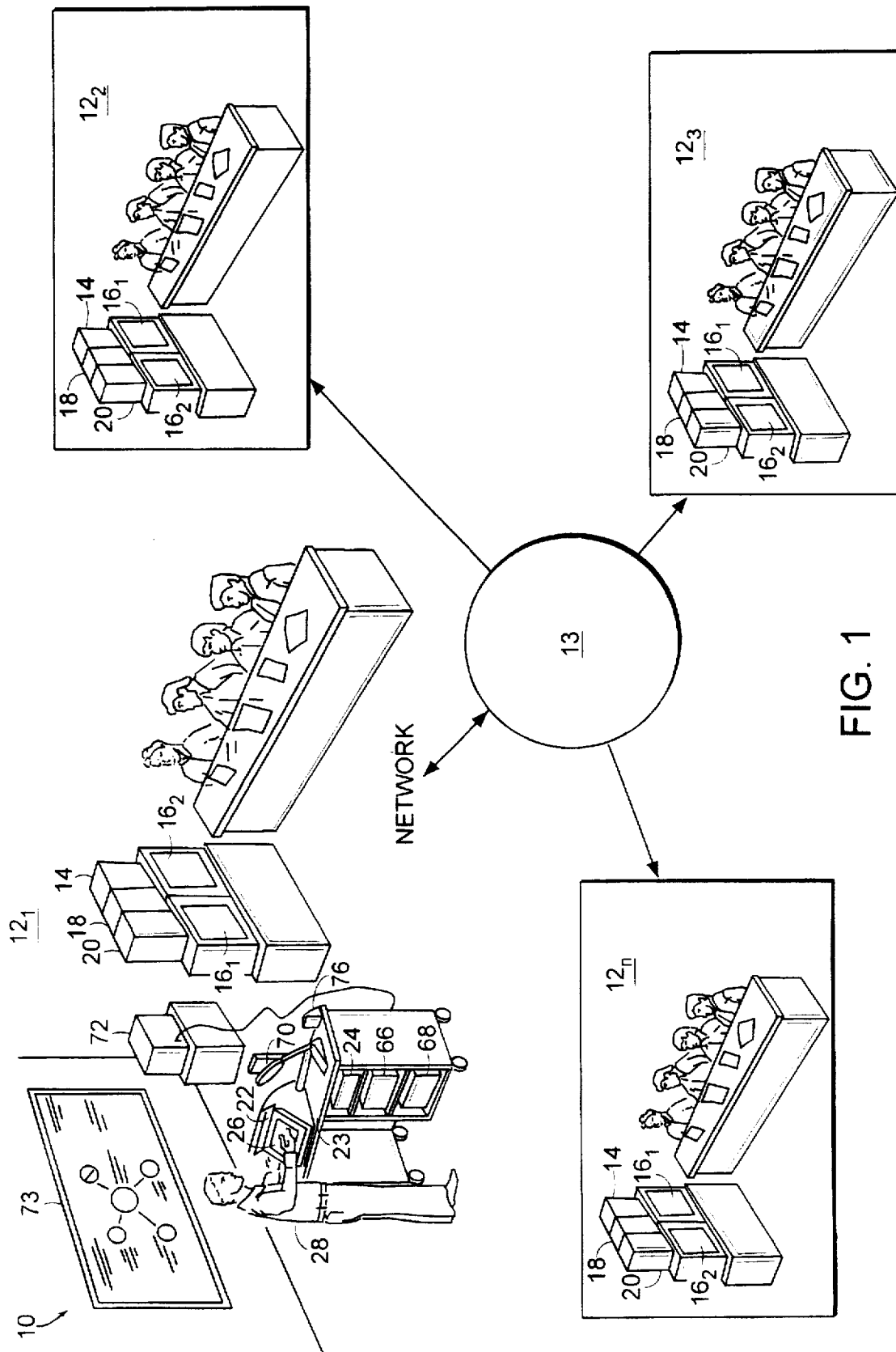


FIG. 1

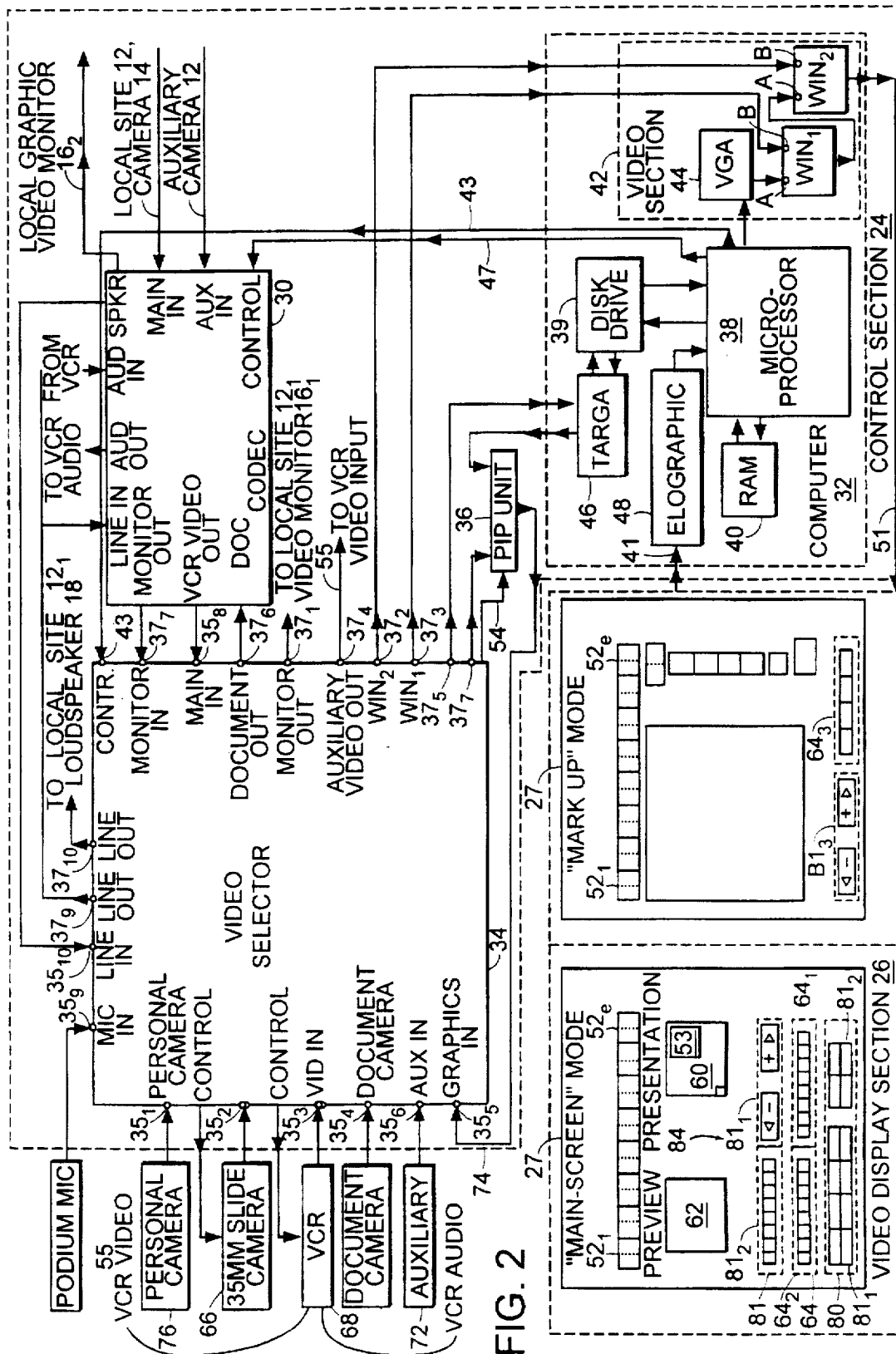


FIG. 2

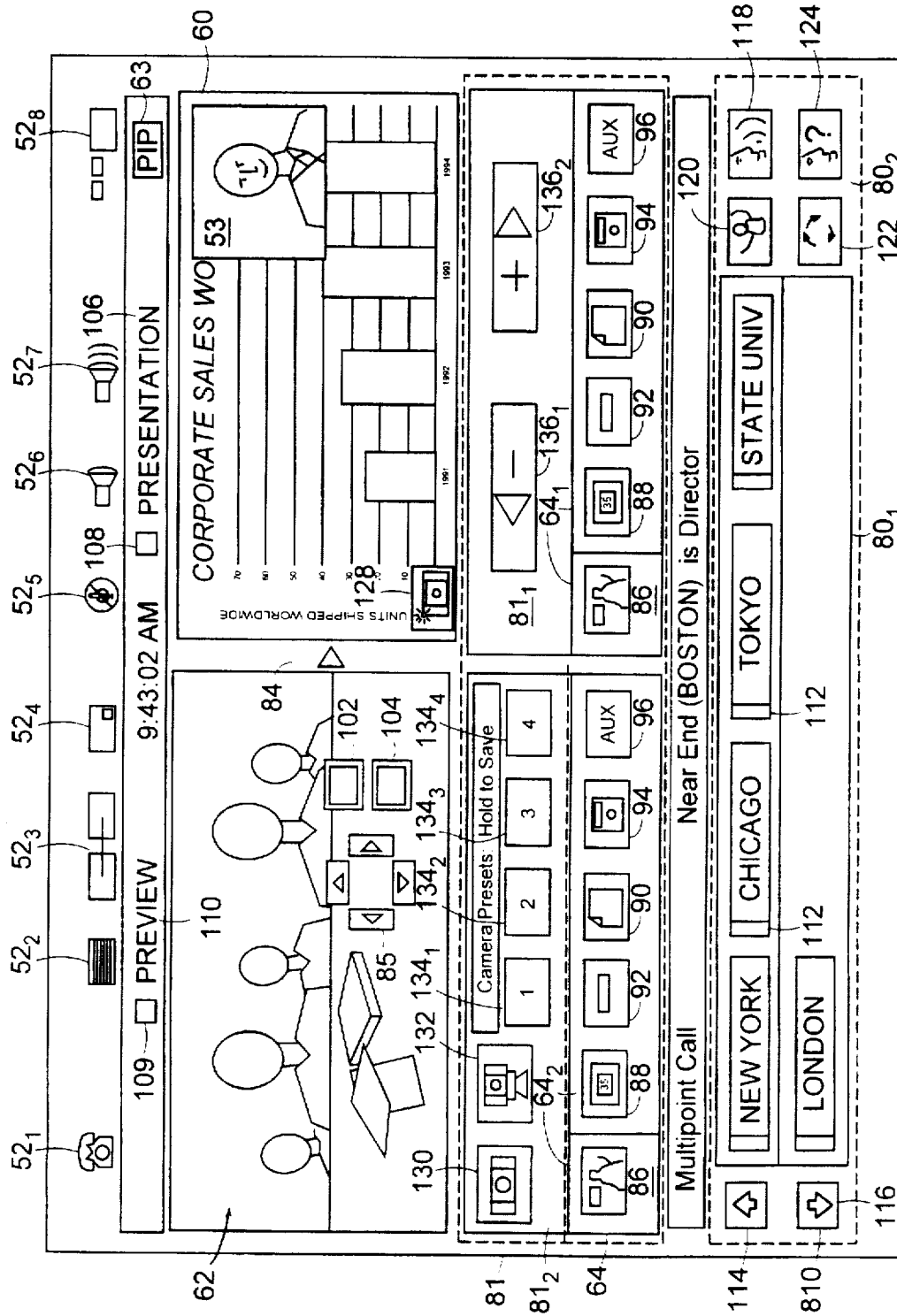
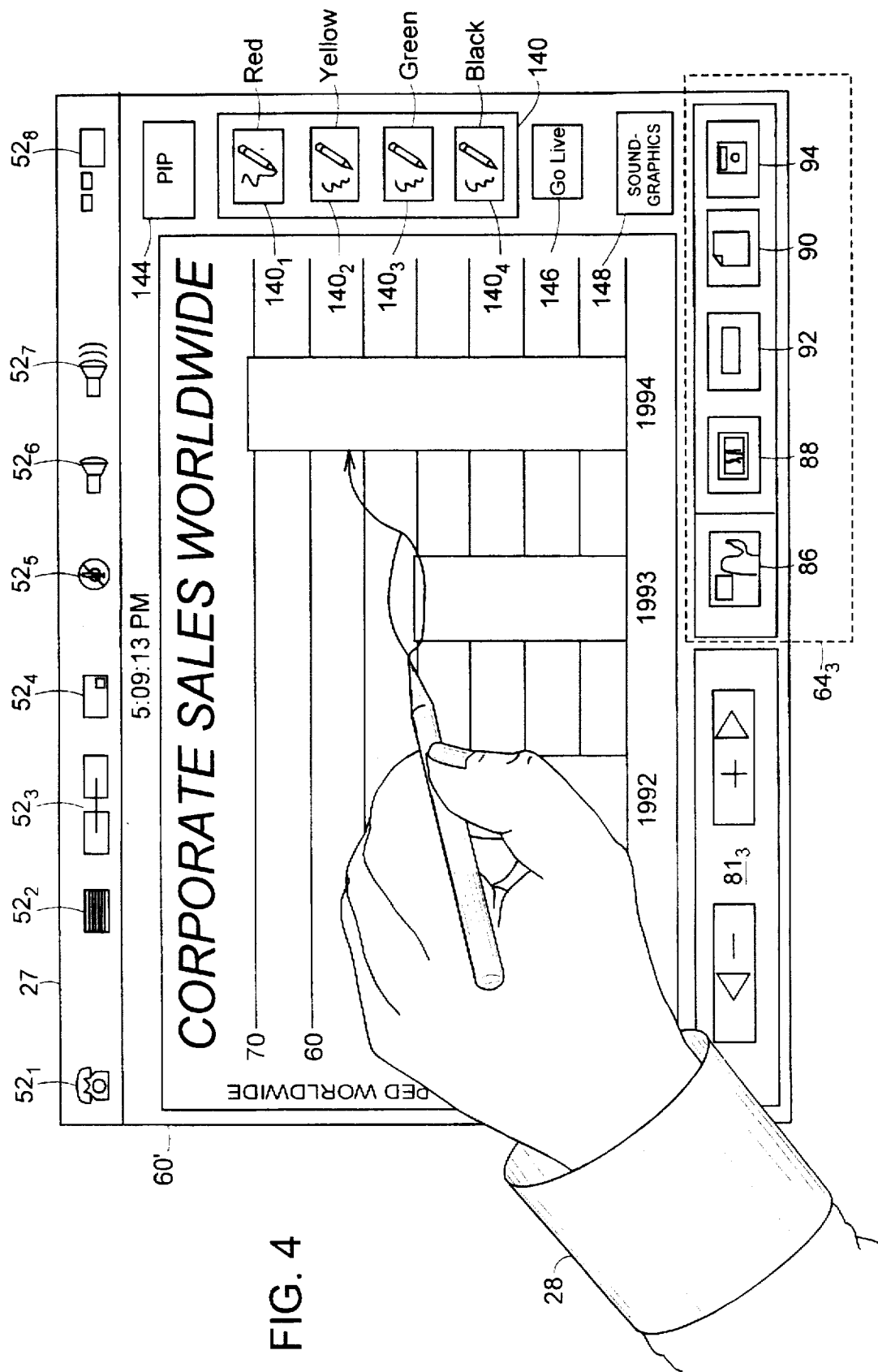


FIG. 3



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