

- [54] **PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR AGGLOMERATION**
- [72] Inventors: **Boleslaw Sienkiewicz**, Pearl River; **Ferdinand A. Bagley**, Scotia, both of N.Y.
- [73] Assignee: **General Foods Corporation**, White Plains, N.Y.
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Primary Examiner—Frederick L. Matteson
Assistant Examiner—W. C. Anderson
Attorney—Le Fever, Quillinan & Hubbard

Related U.S. Application Data

- [62] Division of Ser. No. 693,503, Dec. 26, 1967, Pat. No. 3,554,760.
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- [58] Field of Search**34/57 B, 10, 13, 57, 168; 99/234; 23/313**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A process and apparatus for agglomeration of powders, especially soluble coffee, involving the use of upper and lower jets of steam which impinge against at least one falling curtain of powder at a substantial angle so as to disrupt said curtain into agglomerates which are then wetted and redirected into a drying zone. The purpose of the upper jets of steam is to form agglomerates of varying size, density, and moisture content whereas the purpose of the lower jets of steam is to further wet the agglomerates and render them more uniform in density, size and moisture content while insuring that all of said agglomerates are projected into the drying zone.

7 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures

