A register can be cleared to 0 with an exclusive-OR operation. This is because $x \oplus x = 0$.

It is apparent from these examples that many other microoperations can be generated in the CPU. The most efficient way to generate control words with a large number of bits is to store them in a memory unit. A memory unit that stores control words is referred to as a control memory. By reading consecutive control words from memory, it is possible to initiate the desired sequence of microoperations for the CPU. This type of control is referred to as microprogrammed control. A microprogrammed control unit is shown in Fig. 7-8. The binary control word for the CPU will come from the outputs of the control memory marked "micro-ops."

8-3 Stack Organization

LIFO

A useful feature that is included in the CPU of most computers is a stack or last-in, first-out (LIFO) list. A stack is a storage device that stores information in such a manner that the item stored last is the first item retrieved. The operation of a stack can be compared to a stack of trays. The last tray placed on top of the stack is the first to be taken off.

stack pointer

The stack in digital computers is essentially a memory unit with an address register that can count only (after an initial value is loaded into it). The register that holds the address for the stack is called a stack pointer (*SP*) because its value always points at the top item in the stack. Contrary to a stack of trays where the tray itself may be taken out or inserted, the physical registers of a stack are always available for reading or writing. It is the content of the word that is inserted or deleted.

The two operations of a stack are the insertion and deletion of items. The operation of insertion is called *push* (or push-down) because it can be thought of as the result of pushing a new item on top. The operation of deletion is called *pop* (or pop-up) because it can be thought of as the result of removing one item so that the stack pops up. However, nothing is pushed or popped in a computer stack'. These operations are simulated by incrementing or decrementing the stack pointer register.

Register Stack

A stack can be placed in a portion of a large memory or it can be organized as a collection of a finite number of memory words or registers. Figure 8-3 shows the organization of a 64-word register stack. The stack pointer register *SP* contains a binary number whose value is equal to the address of the word that is currently on top of the stack. Three items are placed in the stack: *A*, *B*, and *C*, in that order. Item *C* is on top of the stack so that the content of *SP* is now 3. To remove the top item, the stack is popped by reading the memory word at address 3 and decrementing the content of *SP*. Item *B* is now on top of the stack

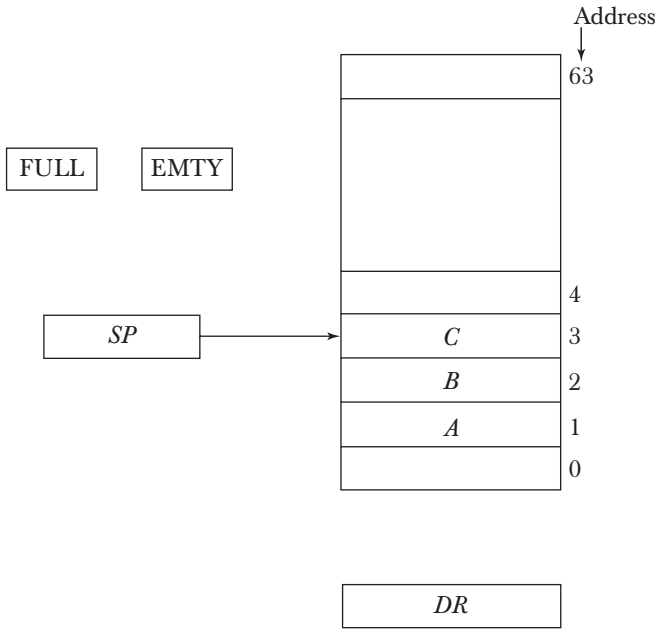

Figure 8-3 Block diagram of a 64-word stack.

since *SP* holds address 2. To insert a new item, the stack is pushed by incrementing *SP* and writing a word in the next-higher location in the stack. Note that item *C* has been read out but not physically removed. This does not matter because when the stack is pushed, a new item is written in its place.

In a 64-word stack, the stack pointer contains 6 bits because $2^6 = 64$. Since *SP* has only six bits, it cannot exceed a number greater than 63 (111111 in binary). When 63 is incremented by 1, the result is 0 since 111111 + 1 = 1000000 in binary, but *SP* can accommodate only the six least significant bits. Similarly, when 000000 is decremented by 1, the result is 111111. The one-bit register *FULL* is set to 1 when the stack is full, and the one-bit register *EMTY* is set to 1 when the stack is empty of items. *DR* is the data register that holds the binary data to be written into or read out of the stack.

Initially, *SP* is cleared to 0, *EMTY* is set to 1, and *FULL* is cleared to 0, so that *SP* points to the word at address 0 and the stack is marked empty and not full. If the stack is not full (if *FULL* = 0), a new item is inserted with a push operation. The push operation is implemented with the following sequence of microoperations:

push

$SP \leftarrow SP + 1$	Increment stack pointer
$M[SP] \leftarrow DR$	Write item on top of the stack