

## BOARD EVALUATION

VIP-FLOP's board evaluation is a machine language subroutine located at 08B1-08EA. It is not very complex and contains a built in strategy adjustment which you may make for yet another way to experiment with the effectiveness of the look-ahead.

The very beginning of the sub needs some explanation, though. Please have a look at the MLS Sub Handler at 0918. This sub will cause any machine language subroutine that calls it to begin running with R4 as the program counter instead of R3. This allows other machine language subs that return via a SEP R4 (D4) instruction to be called from both Chip-8 routines and from machine language routines.

The Sub Handler is called using any available register set to 0918 (I have used RC) and calling with a SEP RC (DC) instruction as demonstrated in lines 08B1-08B7. A second DC instruction, without changing the values in RC will now return control to the Chip-8 Interpreter via the second half of the Sub Handler. R3 is free during a machine language sub running in R4 for calls to other subs.

The evaluation routine works by calling the MLS (via R3 and returning via R4) that counts the number of