TAKCHA (Take Character)

This subroutine, called from BCR, places the next significant character in the source line into the global variable space. The current character is moved to LASTCH, the character just received is put to LASTCH+2 for the 'look ahead' facility, while the character currently there becomes the present character to be processed, and moves to LASTCH+1, "space" or "tab" are ignored; "newline" replenishes the source line in the buffer by the use of the subroutine FILBUF.

The only characters requiring further study are : and). The former may be followed by = to produce :=, and the tests on this branch are used to ascertain whether this is the case.

The latter, closing round bracket, may be the start of a comment acting as an actual parameter delimiter.

E.G:

PROCCALL (a) this is a comment : (b);
is the equivalent of PROCCALL (a,b);

PROC is tested to see whether we are dealing with a procedure call, and if so, the next character in the line is tested to see if it is a letter. This differentiates between

PROCCALL (a) this is
and   PROCCALL (a);

If this is a comment, the buffer is searched for the terminating colon ; when found, the next character is checked to be (, and THISCH is set to comma (the other valid form of parameter delimiter).

ERRORS:

FAIL 56 ; character other than separator between the : and (of a parameter comment.