In  $T_{E}X$ , control sequences are stored without the slash, but active characters have a bit set to make them distinct.

Macro: Snore, as a macro.

Char: Snore as an active character.

The backslash is actually the character \escapechar, usually \ or none if negative. That backslash is recognized in the Mouth when reading Tokens but removed from the internal form of control sequence. It is added back by \string.

If LaTeXML wants to keep the backslash internally, at least it has to make these work:

Disabled backslash gives Foo/Bar : Foo/Bar.

Normal backslash gives A Foo/A Bar: A Foo/A Bar.

Also, we try to preserve newlines, but still as a space token: []