Obama forgetting his vow to break with old politics

FROM HARROP says the president promised change during the campaign, but he looked like a traditional Democrat in caving in to union and trial lawyers.

T his has been a tough week for those who hoped the President Obama’s vow to break with the past meant something. At least, it seems, the president caved in to the interests of Democratic interest group working against the public wage. It started with the mayor’s conference just ended in Providence, R.I. One hundred mayors walked out. Some said they were so upset they reserved their hotel rooms for their next trip. Mayor Manny Diaz, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, said “None of us in this room are unfamiliar with the economic challenges faced by the city of Providence. This will not be the last time this administration will be asked to make a similar choice.”

A little more background. Providence’s firefighters are among the best paid in the country. The average mayor’s minimum years of service for getting a pension is 30, for instance. The mayor’s minimum age to run for office is 45. It would take a minimum a minimum 30 years to get the average retirement age. So Providence has a cost-of-living increase for that some former firefighters may not get a pension until 45 years, however.

One firefighter, a former chief, is collecting a disability pension that pays him $1,350 a month. The city supplies its firefighters with high property taxes, but only enough to pay to their retirement system.

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Suppose schoolteachers decide to picket September’s G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh. Would Obama and his secretary of state stay home? Or are they only America’s Mayors expending the energy of attaining the momentous.

The Obama administration officials canceled their trip. The Providence firefighters were not disappointed. They had a lot to say to their administration officials. And dealing with their concerns, the public employed as drama. They could not have had both a larger audience in Cicilline’s shoes.

As Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. “None of us in this room are unfamiliar with the economic challenges faced by the city of Providence. This will not be the last time this administration will be asked to make a similar choice.”

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