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To: Hinton, Karen; Hagelgans, Andrea; Walzak, Phil

Subject: Daily Show Pool Report: PART 1 of 2

It's the Daily Show with Bill de Blasio!

Your pooler for tonight: Mike Grynbaum, NY Times

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Mayor Bill de Blasio (henceforth 'BDB') arrived at the Daily Show's studios on Eleventh Avenue in the vicinity of 5:30 p.m. He was accompanied by communications director Andrea Hagelgans; newly minted press secretary Karen Hinton; First Lady Chirlane McCray; First Son Dante de Blasio; and two friends of Dante's.

The Mayor's entourage watched the taping from a green room. Per the mayor's aides, Jon Stewart (henceforth 'Jon') came backstage at one point to chat and joked with Dante about having wanted to go to Yale -- but this test called the SAT was a problem.

Taping began at 6:19 p.m. This is BDB's second appearance on the Daily Show -- but they didn't get his name quite right.

"New York Mayor William de Blasio will be joining us a little bit later," Jon announced to the audience, before launching into a segment on the Middle East, which you can enjoy on your Comedy Central dial this evening at 11 p.m. Eastern.

After the first commercial break, Jon returned with a segment about Caitlyn Jenner and the reaction to her Vanity Fair cover.

One more commercial break and ... okay, here comes BDB! Jon's introduction, in an old-timey gangster voice: "He runs this town, and if you know what's good for you, you'll shut up. He's the mayor of New York City. Please welcome back to the program Mayor Bill de Blasio!"

The Mayor is wearing a red and white striped tie and a grey suit. Big applause and a big mayoral smile as he sits down in the chair.

Jon: "Thank you for doing this."

BDB: "It is a great pleasure."

Jon notes that BDB is taking "a more national platform on the issue of income inequality. You feel that's a real injustice. And I want to ask you, before we get into that..." Jon leaned forward. "What also about height inequality? What about a situation where the one-percenters [gestures to BDB] tower in their ivory legs, over the hoi polloi [gestures to himself], the proletariat, who maybe be closer to, the rats, the gutter, the subway. How do you redistribute?"

BDB does not miss a beat. "I'm kind of Darwinian on this one," he says with a sly smile. "You know, winners, losers..."

Over the laughter, Jon retorts: "Well, when hundreds of us tie you down to the ground Gulliver-style..."

BDB, almost sheepishly: "I've had that recurring nightmare. This is amazing."

Jon, sadly: "I've had the opposite."

Onto income inequality! Jon: "You put together what was called a progressive agenda to address income inequality. Basic tentpost -- what can be done?"

BDB suggests higher wages and benefits: "a 15 dollar minimum wage should be the norm in the United States of America." But Jon wonders, "Are there small businesses on the margin who may not have the ability to do that?"

"You can always have some local variations and some exceptions," says BDB. "But here's the core point: minimum wage used to mean what you could actually live on." Seeking affirmation, the mayor turned to the audience: "Can you live in New York City on \$8.75 an hour?" Loud response: "No!"

The Mayor ran through his toolbox of policy proposals (paid sick, family leave), earning applause with the line, "Here's a crazy idea: Tax the wealthy." When BDB began plugging his group's website -- "available at progressiveagenda.us, by the way" -- Jon interrupted.

“You couldn’t get dot-com?” the host asked incredulously.

“Eh, we took whatever we could get,” said the mayor.

Jon shook his head. “Lazy progressives.”

BDB identified what he called a key problem: “The concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a very few is actually pulling down the country. We have the greatest income disparity since before the Great Depression.”

But Jon wondered: “But with these statistics being so stark, why is it so difficult to, then -- is it that people do not trust when that money goes back to the government, that it will be spent wisely?” Jon added: “Do they almost prefer it being squandered to the wealthy CEOs, than squandered to the government? How do you rebuild trust?”

BDB: “I think when the people in this country see their government ensure a decent standard of living” -- he cited Pre-K, \$15 min wage, paid sick leave, family leave -- “when the government is providing those kinds of fundamentals, there will be an increase in that trust again.”

BDB added: “People didn’t get to vote on a lot of these things, let’s face it. These were changes in our private-sector economy that happened without public debate.”

Jon: “People look at it and say the federal government has a tremendous amount of money, they’ve spent all this money over the past 40 years. Yet we still have intractable poverty.” He added, “How do you convince them that more intervention” is necessary?

BDB: “Have there been instances where government was bureaucratic and inefficient, or politics intruded into the equation, money wasn’t spent well, of course. But I think we know the basics do work. Investment in education works. Investment in infrastructure works. It has historically for this country.”

Affordable housing came up. BDB cited his plan “to build 200,000 units of affordable housing for half a million people.”

Jon: “It would be nice to see 200,000 affordable units in New York City because that would bring the total to 200,000.”

BDB: “You did your background research, I’m impressed.”

Jon: “Stick around, because we’re going to talk about how you have ruined the city, and, uh, everybody’s going to die soon. Mayor Bill de Blasio, we’ll be right back.”

BDB: “It’s great to be here.”

STAY TUNED FOR PART 2 OF THIS POOL REPORT, FEATURING BDB COMMENTS ON CRIME & STOP-AND-FRISK.

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