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## Dyche right on gubernatorial debate format, but utopian setup unlikely

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Kudos to syndicated columnist John David Dyche for an insightful and on-target commentary in last Sunday's paper.

Reacting to the shallow, noncommittal and self-servingly safe responses provided by gubernatorial candidates in a recent primary debate, Dyche had a spot-on appraisal of their collective dismal performance:

“Can't we do better at moving candidates beyond scripted talking points and superficial statements to demonstrating real understanding of difficult issues?” Dyche wrote. “Candidates ought to be made to not only explain their positions, but defend them against well-informed, challenging and sustained questioning.”

Good luck with that utopian daydream.

In order to court votes, candidates have to make everyone – from the fringe elements on the far right to the fantasy purveyors on the far left – believe they are on “their side” on virtually any given issue. They typically explain where they want to take us without providing a clear and unambiguous roadmap for the route they plan to use to get us there.

The more specific the reply, the greater the likelihood a potential supporter will be alienated.

Most politicians claim, for instance, they are vehemently against the spiraling national debt. But ask those same would-be office holders exactly how they would deal with it if elected and they usually offer up catchy one-liners subject to multiple interpretations by people who hold wildly divergent positions.

Combine these ambiguous rejoinders with the cultural ADD that increasingly defines most of our citizenry in recent decades and you have a potent recipe for moral decline and economic ruin.

Americans who read books, do their homework and have a genuine desire to truly understand the complex and challenging issues confronting us at an accelerating pace are quickly becoming an underrepresented minority.

If we don't stand for something, we'll fall for anything. We're just about there.

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