

## **Towards a USA Election**

South of the border, the main event is about to begin, eleven months of rallies and rodeo each aspiring bronc rider churning the turf as soon as the chute opens, and always that splash of Hollywood. We will look south at night and see the fireworks, watch the drama unfold on TV and in newsprint, listen to and consider the issues, be entertained, and worry when it cuts too close to our bone. With or without clothes, an emperor is still an emperor

I voted just once in the country of my birth  
The ballot from my home state reached me  
at my college campus during my final year  
All the names spilled down the length of the  
page but I made just a single mark beside the  
one name: John F. Kennedy

But that was long  
years ago, and on this November day I would  
like to say to my once fellow citizens, simply  
your country  
your election  
good luck

Yet it is not that simple. The line between us is  
both border and bond, as is each and every  
boundary etched into our earth. Like the ocean  
currents and great winds, there is a sheath of  
life wrapped around us all, that would gather  
us in whether we love or fight that thought

So I will say instead  
I wish you well  
all of you  
all of us

Though that question still haunts me  
what if JFK had lived?

Even more  
what if Robert Kennedy had lived?

*Philip Thatcher (November 2019)*