

CBS Evening News with Tony Dokoupil

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6:31:00 p.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Lawmaker Indicted]

TONY DOKOUPIL: An 82-year-old state senator hit with criminal charges linked to a family-run marijuana business. What she is saying.

FBI DIRECTOR KASH PATEL: Ms. Lucas accumulated nearly \$5 million in ill-gotten gains.

(...)

6:40:08 p.m.

2 minutes and 2 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Lawmaker Indicted]

DOKOUPIL: To Virginia now, where a state senator is facing criminal charges, federal criminal charges tied to racketeering, drug trafficking, and money laundering, among other offenses. Louise Lucas is also accused of using her political power to protect a marijuana ring run by her own family. Details now from CBS's Nicole Sganga.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; VA Lawmaker Accused of Running Marijuana Ring]

UNIDENTIFIED LOCAL VIRGINIA REPORTER [TO LUCAS]: Louise, what do you have to say about the accusations?

NICOLE SGANGA: One of Virginia's most powerful Democrats, Louise Lucas, surrendered today, accused of leading a multi-million-dollar illegal marijuana enterprise involving her own family.

ATTORNEY GENERAL TODD BLANCHE: The charges listed in the indictment reflect the alleged behavior of a public servant who put her own financial interests before the people she was elected to serve.

SGANGA: Prosecutors accused the 82-year-old Lucas and six others of conspiring to distribute more than 220 pounds of marijuana, then launder the profits. In one alleged phone conversation, Lucas said, "I've got too old to not be greedy." In May, the FBI searched Lucas's Virginia office and cannabis business, recovering marijuana and firearms. Lucas, an outspoken opponent of President Trump, said in a statement: "I grew up under Jim Crow. I spent my life fighting back, and I'm not stopping now." The charges come just ten days after federal agents searched the D.C. home of another Trump critic, Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, seizing her personal

phone and documents, part of an ongoing investigation.

CONGRESSWOMAN ILHAN OMAR [on MS NOW's *All In with Chris Hayes*, 10/21/26]: I'm confident in my truth. I'm confident in the fact that I didn't do anything wrong.

SGANGA: Historically, the Justice Department has avoided pursuing sitting candidates within 60 days of an election. Not any longer, according to the attorney general.

BLANCHE: I mean, I think you're referring to the 60-day or 90-day practice, which is not in writing. There's no — that's not part of the Justice manual.

SGANGA: Louise Lucas is not on the ballot this year, though her daughter is running for a local office. We are less than two weeks away from Election Day. But Tony, the attorney general insists that the timing of these charges is appropriate.

DOKOUPIL: Nicole, thank you.