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The newspaper of Silicon Valley

The Mercury News

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT UNDER FIRE

BONDI HEARING A TENSE EXCHANGE

Attorney General Pam Bondi says she won't 'put up' with attacks as lawmakers question her department's handling of the Epstein files



Victims of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein were asked to raise their hands if they had not been contacted by Attorney General Pam Bondi, foreground, as she testifies before a House Judiciary Committee hearing on Wednesday. **ROBERTO SCHMIDT — AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES**

By Alanna Durkin Richer, Eric Tucker and Stephen Groves
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Pam Bondi launched into a passionate defense of President Donald Trump Wednesday as she tried to turn the page from relentless criticism of the Justice Department's handling of the

Jeffrey Epstein files, repeatedly shouting at Democrats during a combative hearing in which she postured herself as the Republican president's chief protector. Besieged by questions over Epstein and accusations of a weaponized Justice Department, Bondi aggressively pivoted in an extraordinary speech in which she mocked her Democratic ques-

tioners, praised Trump over the performance of the stock market and openly aligned herself as in sync with a president whom she painted as a victim of past impeachments and investigations. "You sit here and you attack the president and I'm not going to have it," Bondi told lawmakers on the House Judiciary Committee. "I am not going to put up with it."

With victims of Epstein seated behind her in the hearing room, Bondi forcefully defended the department's handling of the files related to the well-connected financier that have dogged her tenure. She accused Democrats of using the Epstein files to distract from Trump's successes, when it

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Khanna reveals redacted Epstein file names

Silicon Valley Democrat IDs six men on list as he seeks more clarity and scrutiny

By Julia Prodis Sulek
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After months of working for the full release of the Jeffrey Epstein files, U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna is naming names he uncovered in the latest tranche of documents and demanding that anyone who visited the New York financier's Caribbean island be hauled before Congress, including some of Silicon Valley's tech elite, though

without citing evidence of their wrongdoing. Khanna, a Silicon Valley Democrat, stood on the House floor Tuesday and revealed the names of six powerful men he said were improperly blacked out from newly released case files on Epstein. Khanna and Republican Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky, who co-authored a bipartisan

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U.S. Reps. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., left, and Ro Khanna, D-Santa Clara, seen Monday, accuse the Justice Department of withholding Epstein files material. **ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS — GETTY IMAGES**

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S RACE

Tech titans and wealthy back Mahan campaign

47 deep-pocketed donors opened their wallets to the tune of \$2.1M

By Grace Hase
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For San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan to compete as a late entrant in the race for Califor-

nia governor, political experts said he needed to raise money fast. And he did — pulling in \$7 million in donations in his first week, with more than \$2 million coming from some of Silicon Valley's wealthiest executives and investors.

New campaign filings show that \$2.1 million of that haul came from 47 donors, many of them part of the tech industry's billionaire and venture capital class. The early filings suggest Mahan is quickly emerging as a preferred candidate for deep-pocketed Silicon Valley leaders in a Democratic primary that could test

voters' growing skepticism toward corporate power and extreme wealth. Mahan, a 43-year-old moderate Democrat and former tech entrepreneur, jumped into the race to succeed Gov. Gavin Newsom late last month. In a field without a clear front-runner, supporters in the tech sector praised the second-term

mayor as an outsider to Sacramento and a results-oriented leader focused on crime, homelessness and government efficiency. Nearly half of the contributors listed in the filings, released Tuesday, gave the maximum \$78,400 allowed under state law for the election cycle. They include Google co-founder Sergey Brin, Roblox CEO David Baszucki, billionaire real estate developer Rick Caruso and Y Combinator CEO Gary Tan. Caruso called Mahan a "practically minded moderate and a thoughtful leader brimming with innovative new ideas" in a statement

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